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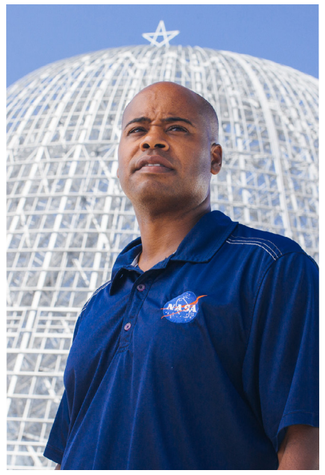

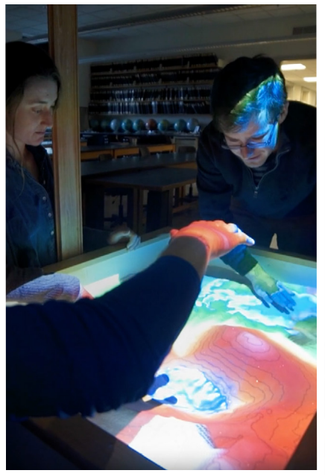

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LIGHTS OUT

BY RUBY SALISBURY '27

There's a particular hopefulness found in collective wonder.

The eclipse is the only time I've looked up at the sky and known that millions of people were looking at it with me.

In a way, the eclipse had a sound. One not made by the moon and sun aligning, but by cheers, gasps, and camera shutters.

I couldn't help feeling minuscule as the two celestial bodies aligned. They pointed directly at me, yet had nothing to do with me or anyone else.

It's easy to forget that we exist on a planet, that everything we know sits on an orb moving through the vastness of space. But the eclipse made me remember.

The sun rises every day and I've never realized how important that is until, for 60 seconds, it was gone.

Can you imagine seeing the sky go dark without knowing why? Without knowing if it would ever be light again?

I kept thinking afterwards about all the generations of people before me who witnessed eclipses. How we were connected through celestial coincidence.

1932 was the last time there was a total eclipse in Vermont, the same year Amelia Earhart flew across the Atlantic. I read an old newspaper that told people in Burlington to protect their eyes with photographic film.

But what about the people before that, the ones who didn't have newspapers to read or film to hold over their faces? They must have been collectively terrified.

People sometimes act as though knowing more about the world means being less amazed by it. After witnessing the eclipse, I disagree. It was astonishing to stand under the sky with a group of people and understand the rarity of our small human bodies falling in perfect alignment with the two celestial ones that we couldn't exist without.

WRITER RUBY SALISBURY '27 WILL BE A SOPHOMORE IN THE FALL. THIS ESSAY IS ADAPTED FROM A LONGER WORK PUBLISHED IN *MIDDLEBURY GEOGRAPHIC*.

CATHERINE MILLER

PHOTOGRAPHER CATHERINE MILLER IS AN OBSERVATORY SPECIALIST AT MIDDLEBURY.

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Remembering Ted Perry

A little more than half a century ago, in the early spring of 1971 in Austin, Texas, a young Ted Perry—then a professor of film at UT—waited with his wife, Miriam, at the home of a friend and colleague who was soon to arrive from the local hospital with his spouse and newborn son.

Decades before he would be hired to found a film studies department at Middlebury and years before his movie-star good looks would be accentuated when his shock of perfect hair turned from jet black to silver to pure white, Ted was already a film scholar of some renown, soon to be lured away from Texas to head up the film department at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. But that morning, he and Miriam—already the parents of two young girls—were eagerly awaiting an introduction to their friends' new child.

That child was me.

TED DIED THIS SUMMER, in early June, days after his 88th birthday and just as we were wrapping up production of this issue of the magazine. Upon learning the very sad news, I ripped up what I had written for this space, needing to write about him—for me and for CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

ILLUSTRATION BY HSIAO-RON CHENG

Midd

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FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS

KARLOTTA FREIER
"Seeing the Forest for the Trees"
The *New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Vanity Fair* are among the many clients of illustrator Freier, who plies her trade in Brooklyn.

CAROLINE CRAWFORD
"No Joke"
Though she's never played Ultimate Frisbee herself, Crawford has logged many hours on the sidelines as the parent of two competitors—and many more hours reporting this feature story.

ERIC HANSON
"A Visual Guide to Undergraduate Commencement"
Hanson's whimsical illustrations have graced the pages of the *New Yorker*, the covers of books published by Knopf and Random House, and gallery walls on both coasts and many states in between.

WILLIAM NASH
"The Beyoncé Effect"
A professor of American studies and English, Nash is currently focusing his scholarly research on historical and contemporary representations of abolitionism and enslavement.

ON THE COVER ILLUSTRATION BY KARLOTTA FREIER

ILLUSTRATED HEADSHOTS BY JACQUI OAKLEY

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FOR **EVERY FUTURE**
THE CAMPAIGN FOR MIDDLEBURY

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1986, Middlebury College President Olin Robison and Professor Emeritus Stephen Freeman, the president of the Addison County Grammar School Corporation, welcomed the public to its newly renovated classroom building renamed Twilight Hall. Two years earlier, the College had bought the imposing three-story Ballantyne brick building on the edge of campus from the town of Middlebury. Built in 1867 on the site of the College's original wooden structure known as the Academy Building, the building had been used as part of the town's public school system until 1984. Now, the site would once again serve the educational mission of the College, not just as a classroom building, but also as a symbolic recognition of the first man of African descent, Alexander Lucius Twilight, to receive a degree from an American college—Middlebury in 1823.
Yet, when he graduated—and in the years and decades that followed—Twilight presented as White. Except during the first two decades of his life, Twilight neither identified—nor was identified by others—as Black. His early 1850s daguerreotype reveals a well-dressed, learned man with straight hair, thin lips, a slightly broad nose, and—the beginning of a mischievous smile, or a smug smirk?
He also appears as racially indecipherable, enigmatic, ambiguous. Is this man White, or Black, or of some ethnicity?
Early 19th-century White Vermonters seemed uncon-cerned about who he was racially, for they regarded him as "one of us." They valued what he did, not who he was. In short, Twilight, a racially ambiguous learned man of established professional standing, enjoyed his successes because he effectively "performed Whiteness." Those who knew him read his race as White through his civic acts, his associations, his White spouse, his well-presented appearance, and his enigmatic appearance as "White." However, 21st-century Vermonters are more interested in Twilight's Blackness. The question is, "What explains the shift in Twilight's racially assigned identity?"
Who was Alexander Twilight really?
A Middlebury alumnus, he is celebrated as the first man of African descent to have earned a degree from an American college or university. Yet the story is a bit more complicated than that. By William Hart Illustration by Dave McClinton

Heart to Hart, Part I

I found myself transported in time reading Bill Hart's excellent piece on Alexander Twilight, Middlebury Class of 1823—and not just transported back to the 19th century, when Twilight was a student at Middlebury, but also back to my years at the College and my classes with Bill (then Professor Hart, of course). I hadn't spoken to Bill in about a decade and, after reading his thoughtful article, decided to reach out (we have since reconnected). I wanted to thank him for everything he has done for me, in particular giving me the pleasure, now even greater in hindsight, of sitting together around a symposium table and digging into history and all of its detail and nuance and contradiction. We as students were and continue to be privileged, lucky, to have a teacher like Bill.

—SAM HURT '12, *NEW YORK, NEW YORK*

Heart to Hart, Part II

Knowing him, I was unsurprised to see Professor Hart recount a piece of the history of race in America with the sort of enlightening scrupulousness, level-headedness, and nuance that the genre too often is denied. Others who teach and write on the topic would do well to follow his example.

—AUGUST HUTCHINSON '16, *HUNT VALLEY, MARYLAND*

Further Consequences

My husband, a retired science teacher, and I, a retired English professor, have lived for 34 years in the same home filled with 15 floor-to-ceiling bookcases, only four of them our son's. In retirement, we have decided to move to a much smaller home that can fit but four of those units. That culling process has taught us much about consequences ("Of Consequence," winter 2024).

We, of course, come from an era in which the physical experience of holding a book, turning its pages, hearing the leaves move, annotating with pencil, and inhaling the scents of paper and ink defined some part of our reading. As children, that adventure derived primarily from library books, but as we aged and improved our incomes, we reserved library books for those hard-to-get, outrageously expensive, and research-oriented texts; we began buying and saving our own books, creating our personal library that expanded each year. These shelves held not just books but also our memories of experiencing them; our learning from them; our joys and new discoveries in rereading them; and our continuing dialogue with them, their ideas, and their authors' voices. Pressed between their pages lay journeys of our minds to places, people, and worldviews we could not physically manage due to finances and time. Each book lived and breathed within us as we read it, marked us in some way, and then awaited our return to its pages for a whole new marking process, as we ourselves changed.

As a consequence of devouring these books, we became much of what we currently are. And as a result of having to divest ourselves of them, we have learned of other consequences: the cost to the environment of having to destroy seven unwanted-by-anyone

bookcases to turn into pulp for making particleboard; the cost in labor and fuel to box and redistribute hundreds of books through charities; and the original costs of paper, bindings, and presses. As soon as we began our culling process, we vowed never again to buy what we call "real" books and instead to use only e-books and libraries for the rest of our lives. Still, that choice, too, has consequences: the loss of some visceral part of the reading experience, the eventual environmental cost of e-everything acquisition and disposal, and the loss to our only son of knowing something more of us through our books once we are gone.
— PATRICIA J. SEHULSTER, MA ENGLISH '80, *MAYFIELD, NEW YORK*

Inanimate Discernment?

I am very impressed with the winter 2024 issue of *Midd Magazine*, though one thing has puzzled me: your use of the word *discern* on the cover. As far as I know, *discern* requires an animate subject; as a result, stories are not capable of discerning meaning. People can use stories to discern meaning in a weighty world, but stories, alas, cannot do that on their own.
—LOUIS BAER, *PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND*

Good to the Last Drop

Thank you for the 2024 winter edition of *Middlebury Magazine*. This issue took me more than three cups of coffee to read through. Perhaps it is my age, but there is nothing like the print edition to enjoy on a cold day in front of the fire.
—STEPHEN GRAY '69, *BRUNSWICK, MAINE*

Savoring Print

Absolutely loved the return of print, and whoever wrote that it "smelled good," I get it. It's not exactly a carbon trade-off, but since I live in Brooklyn and have not owned a car in 20 years, I'll consider my extensive use of the subway as a nod to the environment and, of course, recycle my *Midd Magazines* (though having them linger back on the dusty coffee table is pretty nice).
—KEN CARLTON '81, *NEW YORK, NEW YORK*

A Welcome Respite

Just want to add my appreciation for the revival of the print magazine. I spend so much time on a screen for work that I truly treasure my "real" paper reading time. When the magazine was only online, I never accessed it, but I read the paper version cover to cover. Please keep it coming! And I made a donation for the voluntary subscription to support this work. I would be happy to make an annual nonvoluntary payment to keep the physical magazine operating.
—JODI SAMUELS, MA FRENCH '98, *SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA*

Faulty Logic

In the winter 2024 edition of *Midd Magazine*, an alumnus suggested that an earlier article ("Combatting Extremism") had been "hugely biased." Although I agree with the writer's suggestion that we "must reject extremism of every stripe," and I certainly condemn all violence in mass protests, I feel compelled to point out that the writer's logic is sorely lacking when it comes to downplaying the January 6 attack on Congress. The fact that the attack was "largely ineffective" has nothing to do with whether it should be judged for what it was: a violent, deadly attack on American democracy. Judging a criminal act by its success or failure echoes former President Trump's reasoning why he shouldn't be made to pay a fine for grossly inflating the value of his properties to land loans for which his companies didn't qualify. His justification ("Nobody was hurt and the loans were repaid") is analogous to a bank robber who is caught attempting to rob a bank and then arguing in court that he's not guilty because no money was stolen and no one was hurt. The crime is in the attempt, not its success or failure. Every non-MAGA investigation has shown the attack was planned for months, and former President Trump was a key player. To paraphrase the letter writer, "Your roots are showing."
—WILLIAM MILLMAN '72, *SUNSET BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA*

Dismayed at 'Disgusted'

I was dismayed to find that you printed Bill Woodward's letter, "Disgusted," in your recent issue. While I value balanced reporting and certainly appreciate the importance of allowing opinions of all sorts to have their airing, gaslighting, whataboutism, and the pushing of false equivalencies have no honest place in our public discourse.

What happened in Washington, D.C., on January 6, 2021, was a desperate and horrifyingly violent attempt to overturn the 2020 U.S. presidential election. It was a meticulously planned and orchestrated assault on our democracy, not simply a "demonstration that got out of control," as Mr. Woodward would have it. To acknowledge this is in no way to excuse left-wing violence, which is also reprehensible. While Mr. Woodward has the right to opine that your "Combatting Extremism" piece could have been more balanced and to suggest ways that might have been better achieved, he does not have the right to his own "alternative facts" (which in this instance too much resemble the falsehoods that reverberate in the revisionist and shamelessly apologist right-wing echo chamber).

To the extent that *Midd* would publish such falsehoods—claims obviously false to anyone who has seen the video footage and heard the testimonial evidence in the aftermath of that sad day in American history—as simply one person's opinion makes the publication complicit in such gaslighting. I hope that going forward *Midd* will be more discerning as to which letters it deems worthy of publication.
—JOHN SELFRIDGE, MLITT '11, *WILLIAMSBURG, MASSACHUSETTS*

Kudos to Journalist

I'd like to commend Mary Lane '10—author of the book *Hitler's Last Hostages: Looted Art and the Soul of the Third Reich* ("Looted," winter 2024)—for her deep dive into Nazi Germany's effort to loot and stash troves of Western art. I'm especially appreciative that she stated so boldly that Germany still has unmet responsibilities stemming from the 1930s and 1940s. Injustice doesn't fade and shouldn't be ignored with the passage of time.
—MARY OREAR '86, *ROCKPORT, MAINE*

Department of Corrections

In the essay "On Thin Ice," which was part of the "Of Consequence" feature package, an error was introduced during the editing process. The printed story refers to the "Nordic Sea," of which there is no such thing. The correct name would have been the Nordic Seas, which consist of the Greenland Sea, Norwegian Sea, and Iceland Sea. We regret the error.

Letters Policy

Letters addressing topics discussed in the magazine are given priority, though they may be edited for brevity and clarity. On any given subject, we will print letters that address that subject, and then in the next issue letters that respond to the first. After that, we will move on to new subjects. Send letters to *Midd Magazine*, 2 Court Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 or middmag@middlebury.edu.

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REMEMBERING TED PERRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the legion of friends, colleagues, and students who knew and loved him.

Ted was a luminary at the College—a brilliant scholar, a caring teacher, the aforementioned founder of an academic department, a widely respected administrator (perhaps his greatest feat). He was an iconoclast, unafraid to challenge convention, yet he remained beloved, even among those he challenged most fiercely. He was a devoted father and the true love of his wife of more than 60 years.

WHEN I WAS CONSIDERING MOVING to Vermont in 2002, Ted and Miriam were the first people I contacted. While they and my parents didn't stay in Texas long, the families remained close, exchanging Christmas cards every year and getting together first in New York and later, after the Perrys' move to Vermont, when their travels would take them through Virginia, where my family had settled.

When I was invited to Middlebury for an interview for the magazine editor's job, I instantly reached out to Ted and Miriam. The night before I was subjected to a full day of questioning, they took me out to dinner at a Chinese restaurant in the Marble Works complex. Miriam asked about family; Ted began to grill me about what I knew about Middlebury, why I wanted the job, and why I thought Middlebury should hire me. I was momentarily rattled, but then I settled in; I'm confident it was the best preparation I could have had for the next day, and I'm convinced I wouldn't have been offered the job had that not happened.

FOR THE PAST TWO DECADES, Ted and Miriam became my dear, dear friends, a reintroduction, if you will, to that infant they met in 1971. We dined together often, spent time with extended family at the holidays. When my son was born, they were among the first to visit. And when my marriage was ending, Ted was among the first people I talked to; he subsequently began arranging weekly lunches, just the two of us. And here's the thing: this relationship wasn't unique, though it felt that way to me. Hundreds, probably thousands, of people reading these words felt just as loved by him and loved him just as much. We will have more to share about Ted and his life in a future issue. And I so hope you'll share your own stories.

A last note. Ted was a skilled gardener, with a specific love of peonies. He would often admire the peonies outside my house (for 13 years, he lived just down the street from me), occasionally requesting permission to divide a few to plant in his backyard.

The day before he died, I was walking in town and noticed a shock of peonies.

They were in full bloom. —MJ

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UP FRONT

A TOUR AROUND THE MIDDLEBURY CONSTELLATION

37 Minutes with Kevin Chu '14

Can the state of Vermont add 154,000 residents and nearly 80,000 houses by 2035? Its future may depend on it.

PHOTOGRAPH BY OLIVER PARINI

Kevin Chu '14 is the executive director of the Vermont Futures Project, an independent nonpartisan economic research and education nonprofit. The project's mission is to develop an economic development plan to ensure the long-term fiscal health of the Green Mountain State. Scratch a bit at the boilerplate language, and the challenge becomes abundantly clear: how to dramatically shift the demographics of a state while maintaining the character of a place worth saving. Editor Matt Jennings recently spoke with Chu about this effort.

MIDD MAGAZINE: So, I want to talk right away about what seem to be the twin pillars of the Vermont Futures Project, the two main goals of an increased population and the housing to support this influx. I'm trying to wrap my head around sequencing. Is there a chicken-egg aspect of this as to what comes first and how? To get more people, you need more housing, but to be able to build more housing, you need proof that there will be more people. How does this work?
KEVIN CHU: That's right. I have heard that exact phrase so many times as I've traveled around the state.

MM: *[Laughs]* Sorry. I know, not so original—
KC: No, it's a good question, because it's one that folks are familiar with. So, it creates this conceptual anchor of a problem that we need to solve, the chicken-or-the-egg scenario. I am encouraged because a decade ago we were trying to solve a very different problem in Vermont. If you recall, the state launched a relocation incentive. I still remember the headlines. It made national and even international headlines: "Vermont is paying people $10,000 to move there."

MM: Yeah, I remember. I thought I had missed my shot at 10 grand because I was already here.
KC: *[Laughs]* So that effort was to try to increase demand for Vermont. How do

we get people interested in our brave little state? And today the demand is there. We see that reflected in the housing marketplace. People want to be in Vermont. And that gives me a lot of hope and optimism for the future because that's an easier problem to solve, which is by building more housing to create capacity to meet that demand. Vermont is set up well to thrive if we can step up to that challenge. It's much more difficult to create a thriving future when there's no demand for your place.

MM: Right. We're not trying to get—no offense to the people of Irkutsk, but we're not trying to get 200,000 people to move to Siberia.
KC: That's right.

MM: And you've mentioned not only does Vermont need people, but people need Vermont. I mean, there are reasons why Vermont is and can be an attractive place to live, to raise a family, to work. And it's that effort to let people know it's more than just coming on vacation. You can live here and thrive.
KC: Correct. Yeah. I'm glad you remembered the talking point. *[Laughs]* Vermont needs more people; more people need Vermont.

MM: Oh, it stuck with me. I love it.
KC: And it's a simple way to intersect multiple perspectives to the economic perspective. We can look at the workforce data and see that Vermont needs more people. When I say more people need Vermont, we can think of that through an environmental perspective and a social-equity perspective, as well. More people need Vermont as climate change continues to induce migration, both domestically and internationally. Some of the locations where people live now might be in floodplains or places prone to wildfire or drought. And when certain places have become unviable for inhabitation, inevitably there will be climate-induced migration. And that's part of why demand for Vermont will continue to go up. Because if we look at many climate projections, Vermont is relatively favorable compared to many other locations around the world.

MM: Right. Yes, and you have a numerical goal of 154,000 new residents in Vermont, but it's not just bodies. It's also demographics, right? We're talking about a younger population as well. I think the *New York Times* piece you shared with me had an infographic about the median age across states. And the headline of the graphic was the "Gray Mountain State" instead of the Green Mountain State because of our older demographic. So, what are the challenges and what are the opportunities to attract not just 154,000 people but a younger populace—either convincing younger people who are already here to stay or bringing younger people to the state?
KC: I think one of the areas where Vermont currently is quite strong is attracting young talent to our colleges and universities. We see that reflected in the census data, which includes the count of college students. However, Vermont is dead last when it comes to college graduate retention. To me, that's an opportunity because we've done the hard part. We've attracted them here. These are kids who have raised their hands and said, "I like Vermont enough to at least spend four years of my life there for an education."

And if we can be intentional about retention strategies, creating community connections, helping students build professional networks, and also investing in business growth to create the opportunities that students are seeking postgraduation, I think we might start to see some progress in terms of retention. So, that's an efficiency strategy to do more with what we already have. I think the COVID migration dynamics are also an indicator of what people might be seeking out in terms of work-life balance, where they want to be and live out their values, perhaps raise a family. We saw a large in-migration of people when the pandemic hit. So, in that moment of reflection where some people got to choose where they wanted to live out their values and seek safety and comfort, many people chose Vermont. And how do we lean into that as a long-term durable trend rather than an anomaly?

MM: Let's say we're building up infrastructure and bringing broadband connections to parts of the state that have not had it or had it in spots to allow people, those remote workers, to come. But are there place-based industries in Vermont that either don't yet exist but could or are in their incubator stage? As part of your economic plan, are you focused at all on "Okay, what can we bring to Vermont or create in Vermont that makes it even more attractive?"
KC: Oh, absolutely. This is where we can examine some of the trends that are already underway. There are some amazing, innovative companies, such as Beta Technologies, OnLogic, these tech-based companies, especially ones that are leaning into green technology. I'm super excited about the Tech Hub initiative that is bringing together an ecosystem around gallium nitride semiconductor technology, which has huge implications from a national security perspective and is just catalyzing sort of the next generation of semiconductor technology that the country will need. So, those are activities that are already underway that we can continue to amplify and scale up.

And I think there's also a way to bring together some of what has made Vermont so distinct in the past and bring it forward into the future as a strength as well. I think about the identity of Vermont around the rural landscape, forestry and agriculture, and the innovation that happens in those spaces as well. If we can bring together some of the newer technology to solve old-school problems, these are problems that many other places around the country, especially rural communities, also need to solve. And if Vermont can be a leader in that way, we can start exporting some of those ideas and innovations—

MM: Yeah, I was just about to say, what about an export strategy. That's terrific.
KC: I'll add to that too. I think health care is going to be another area of opportunity. You mentioned the "Gray Mountain State" moniker that the *New York Times* gave us. Part of the reason I had that conversation with the reporter is he's looking at the long-term labor force implications of an aging population, and we discussed how Vermont in some ways is a leading indicator for what the rest of the country may experience. So, the healthcare implications of aging, Vermont will experience those before other states because we are one of the oldest states by median age. So, the solutions that we pursue here in our state, again, can be exported as solutions out there.

MM: I think we had mentioned in a prior conversation, and what was articulated in the *Times* piece, is that other states are already looking at Vermont because they know we're going to face it first. So, it's like "Okay, what are they doing?" If we do it well, then all of a sudden, again, that is what we are—that becomes another creative economy export to others.

KC: The way I see it, Vermont will be a leader. We're either going to be an example of what to do or what not to do. But one of those things will happen. And I know which one I'd rather it be.

MM: Okay, so I want to close with an observation and then let you jump off from there. You coauthored an op-ed after Vermont had this wonderful experience, being in the path of totality for the solar eclipse in the spring. And as was mentioned in this op-ed, for one day the population of Vermont exceeded 802,000 people, which is the population goal for the project. What struck me was that day, because of the eclipse, everyone talked about a once-in-a-lifetime moment. But there's an aspect of it, the communal aspect, that shouldn't be a once-in-a-lifetime, and that's what you're building toward.
KC: That's exactly right. What we saw in the sky that day was rightfully described as a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. But what happened on the ground doesn't have to be. And how do we change Vermont from a once-in-a-lifetime place to a place that anybody can choose for a lifetime? I think about the shared sense of humanity among the people in the state on that day, regardless of where they live, whether it's Vermont or elsewhere, or what color their skin is, what languages they speak, who they love. When totality hit, that shared sense of humanity was just so refreshing.

And that's where we have to start when we think about the future of Vermont. What are those shared pieces of humanity that we need to steward as we build toward the future? We think about that word "stewardship" quite often in an environmental context. But stewardship has to be part of our strategy for the economy, for social equity, too. These are systems we need to take care of. We each have individual responsibility to contribute.

And it's empowering, too, because I feel like sometimes people perceive the economy as this nebulous thing that just happens to them. But it's a lot more empowering if we say we are all active participants; we can shape our economy and we can shape the future of our state. So, that's what I felt in that moment when totality hit. And that's what I feel today. M

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVIDE COMAI

Object Lessons

Curator Rebekah Irwin sees Middlebury's Special Collections as a laboratory, where antiquities meet utility.

BY CAROLINE CRAWFORD

Rebekah Irwin loves to hear the sound of students hammering away on manual typewriters in the Special Collections room.

It means that the 100-year-old machines, and the feather quills and fountain pens that are also placed nearby, are doing exactly what Irwin acquired them to do—offering students and their professors the opportunity to reflect on the writing process and how it might change based on the tools they're using.

As director and curator of Special Collections at Middlebury, a role Irwin has held since 2014, she gets to do what she likes to do best: acquire objects that tell stories, and then make those storytelling opportunities available to students.

"I like the idea of Special Collections at Middlebury as a laboratory," says Irwin, a Wisconsin native who speaks in the low, melodious voice of an NPR classical music host and often punctuates her sentences by running her fingers through her mass of long, brown, curly hair.

Irwin wades through Middlebury's undergraduate course catalog every semester, looking for classes that could include a hands-on learning visit to Special Collections in the syllabus, then invites faculty to consider bringing their students and building the experience into their coursework. It's an activity she enjoys.

"The process of browsing the course catalog is kind of like studying a text. I'm asking myself where I can make interesting connections across the curriculum. For example, we offer a class called Pioneers of the Brain, which explores the history of neuroscience, and we have valuable antiquarian books on the history of psychology and medicine—even if those books are often inaccurate and deeply biased. I'm grateful our professors are willing to take time to expose their students to centuries-old books that detail bloodletting or the use of leeches to treat everything from fevers to depression. These medical treatments were understood at the time as cutting-edge, and many of the books were the very textbooks used in Middlebury classrooms. My hope is that students gain a new familiarity with the historic texts, but maybe a sense of humility too. Our antiquarian books lay bare for visiting students remarkable discoveries and human progress, but also discredited theories that seem quite appalling to us now. Everything has a past, even in the most forward-looking STEM fields."

Irwin's work is all about the long view, including—or especially—on Special Collections acquisitions. "We buy things that have staying power—and we bear a certain weight to choose things that are useful. If I acquire something and it sits on a shelf, unused, for a half century, that's a greater risk than it being used too much. One of my many ambitions is that our collections are seen and used by each new generation of Middlebury students."

HANDS ON For Rebekah Irwin, an object that sits behind glass or on a shelf, unused, is the greatest risk to a collection's relevance.

OBJECTS RIPE FOR STORYTELLING

ACCORDING TO

Rebekah Irwin

Rebekah Irwin likes to say that her favorite acquisitions in Special Collections are her most recent ones, but she highlighted several notable objects to be found in the basement of the Davis Family Library:

Royal typewriter, circa 1920, used by students in writing labs

Vintage Kodak cameras, paired with historic snapshots during classes taught on the history of photography

Richly embroidered bookbindings with gold, silver, and silk thread, from the 17th to 18th centuries

Cheap paperbacks, given away to soldiers and sailors in WWII

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM DETOUR

Irwin is passionate about "demystifying" Special Collections at Middlebury, which is housed in the lower level of the Davis Family Library. Rather than guarding a forbidding collection behind locked doors, she's made the space brightly lit and welcoming, and she encourages interaction with what's housed there. "What I often tell students is that we are less like a museum and more like a petting zoo. Books don't belong behind glass, they need to be activated by our interacting with them. We turn pages, run our hands across paper, and breathe in the smells of old books."

Hence her creation of the writing lab project, which isn't an exercise in nostalgia, but rather a way to understand the history of writing, and the history of the tools that writers used, not that long ago. "Most students, and even some faculty, have never used goose feather quills, fountain pens, or hundred-year-old manual typewriters," she notes. "One philosophy professor required his students to reflect on what it felt like to write in these different ways, asking them, 'How does the writing tool affect the thinking process? Are the noises distracting? How is it different from writing a paper on a laptop? Perhaps the tools really do matter? Is writing essentially different using a manual typewriter versus typing out a text message with your thumbs?' It lends a deeper understanding to students about the ways to think about reading and writing, and how the many, many texts they send on their cell phones are connected to historic texts preserved in archives and libraries like ours."

Irwin has always been interested in what she calls "quotidian objects, like pottery, furniture, and textiles that are both functional and beautiful." She thinks books fit into this category too. She grew up in Milwaukee with few family heirlooms. Her mother was born in a German refugee camp after World War II; her family immigrated to the United States "with very few personal possessions," she says. "I didn't grow up in a family with antiques or collectibles. If you're forced to leave your home to escape war or persecution, you generally don't have time to take things with you. As an adult, I've surrounded myself with other people's old things—their books, letters, old photographs, and archival family movies. I sometimes wonder if I've chosen this work as a way to restore what my family lost. I get to spend my days preserving the archival heirlooms of total strangers so that their stories survive."

She's currently on a quest to find books with lavishly embroidered covers and bindings that were produced by women and professional workshops from medieval times to the 1800s. "These books were wildly popular during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, a bold historical figure that we don't associate with needlepoint and embroidery. Books like these that were lovingly personalized and decorated can reveal to us what women were reading centuries ago," she says. "Studying old books is very interdisciplinary. We're interested in the book as literature, as history, and as art. We're also interested in economics and commerce. 'How much did it cost? Who could even afford such a luxury object?' We're concerned about the safety of our collections too, essentially, their chemistry—do our bindings contain arsenic, lead, or other toxic chemicals? Can we collaborate with scientists at Middlebury to analyze the proteins and DNA of our books made from animal skin? All of these things—the economics, the science, the artistry, and the literary aspects—are like a constellation around a text that makes the physical book a teaching object."

Irwin has always been entranced by libraries. Growing up, she appreciated how libraries were places where book lovers could pull piles of books off shelves and curl up in a chair, versus museums, which, she says, "were a place with rules and guards and objects behind glass." But she didn't really think libraries were a place to work. She "didn't make a connection about the occupational path of libraries" while she was considering a career.

> "I sometimes wonder if I've chosen this work as a way to restore what my family lost. I get to spend my days preserving the archival heirlooms of total strangers so that their stories survive."

Instead, Irwin earned her undergraduate degree in fine arts and art history, and as a student worked for a PBS station, assisting with the production of history documentaries. "It was the Ken Burns era," she recalls, and she was sent to archives to scan historic photographs. She loved the work, and one of the archivists she collaborated with encouraged her to go to library school. She was finishing a master's degree in education from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and heeded the suggestion, earning another MA in library and information studies.

Irwin spent eight years in Yale's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscripts Library before joining Middlebury as head of Collections and Digital Initiatives, then becoming director and curator of Special Collections and Archives in 2014.

When she arrived, there was very little religious diversity in Special Collections—Middlebury's history as a college founded by Protestant Congregationalists meant that there were many Protestant texts, and only one Catholic manuscript. During her tenure, she has expanded the collection to better reflect global religious traditions, noting that Special Collections has gone from having "one Hebrew manuscript, a single Islamic manuscript, no Hindu texts to speak of, and a small collection of Buddhist works to now having dozens of each."

"Every curator in Middlebury's Special Collections has left their mark," she says. Her hope is that her legacy is to have brought in books and texts that weren't given a place here for the first two centuries of the College—things that always belonged, but that took centuries to arrive.

She's also intent on ensuring that Special Collections is part of students' lives, no matter what area of the liberal arts and sciences they study. She knows she's succeeding: over the past academic year, Special Collections had over 2,000 student visits. Every student who participates in the orientation visit for First@Midd, the College's program for first-generation students, also visits Special Collections as part of their orientation. All newly arriving faculty, during their late summer orientation, also make a visit to the rare book room as part of their introduction to Middlebury.

And Irwin has learned to never take for granted what students know—and don't know. During one class's visit for the typewriter exercise, she saw a student sitting quietly at the machine. "I assumed the student was having a moment of repose before beginning the exercise, perhaps thinking about how a typewriter is less forgiving when we make mistakes, so I stepped over to see what was happening. He sheepishly admitted that he didn't know how to put paper in the typewriter. And why should he know? It's a 100-year-old, obsolete machine. I'm asking students to conduct experiments of a sort, to make observations, and to ask questions. Sometimes those experiments require antiquated writing tools, vintage cameras, manuscripts written on animal skin, or delicate books embroidered in gold and silver thread. Special Collections is a storehouse for rare books and archives, yes, but also a space to throw ourselves into the messy history and uncertain future of writing and reading, and our shared burden to preserve these tools and objects." M

Parlez-vous français, Monsieur Renard?

What does the fox say?

Don't ask. That's the message that Middlebury's Department of Public Safety sent out to Language Schools students and others on campus earlier this summer. Apparently, folks were getting a little too familiar with our vulpine residents ("Public Safety has received reports of community members engaging with foxes around the main campus"), which is a big no-no, no matter how cute they may appear. ("The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has asked that we remind the community that it is unsafe to engage with these animals for a number of reasons, including the potential for disease transmission.")

This isn't one of *our* campus foxes, though it certainly resembles what we've been seeing. Cute to observe, yes, but let's leave it at that.

The species of fox most commonly seen in Middlebury is the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), according to an iNaturalist survey and database of flora and fauna on the Vermont campus. (Total number of different species identified to date: 1,213.) But the gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) is known to hang around these parts, as well. The two species can appear similar in coloring, despite their names, but the red fox tends to be slightly bigger in stature and can be differentiated by its "black boots" and white-tipped tail.

The gray fox was the subject of some interesting research conducted by a cohort of Middlebury students. In a winter term course designed by Alexis M. Mychajliw, an assistant professor of biology and environmental studies, and taught by Mychajliw's friend and colleague Ellie Armstrong, an assistant professor of evolutionary genomics at UC Riverside, a dozen students worked with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department to sequence and assemble the first high-quality gray fox genome, using a DNA sample provided by the department. Mychajliw describes the work as a really big deal for conservation in general and conservation in Vermont, specifically. The research has been submitted to the peer-reviewed journal *G3: Genes, Genomes, Genetics*.

GO FIGURE

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team captured another national title—its third consecutive—while cruising to another undefeated season, winning 23 contests and dropping none. It was the second year in a row that the Panthers did not lose a game. And as wildly impressive as all this may be, that still doesn't come close to describing how dominant the team was this year.

11.2

Average margin of victory, in goals, in NCAA tournament contests.

1:26

Amount of time, in minutes and seconds, that Midd trailed in the NCAA tournament, out of 300, minutes played.

16/23

Games in which the Panthers exceeded 15 goals, out of 23 played, during the season.

ONE

Game in which an opponent exceeded 10 goals during the season.

20

Games in a row the Panthers have won in the NCAA tournament. Middlebury won the 2019 title; did not compete in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID; and won titles in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Patton to Depart

Middlebury President Laurie Patton announced in May that she would be leaving the institution at the end of 2024, when she will become the president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Patton has served as president of Middlebury since July 1, 2015; she is the 17th leader of the institution and the first woman to hold the position.

In a letter to the community, Patton wrote, "Middlebury is a community I love and admire, and it has become home. Even more, it has taught me a great deal about the work of our democracy and the common good. It seemed right for me to continue that work at a national level with the scholars, artists, writers, lawmakers, and businesspeople who are thought leaders in the Academy and the world."

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences was created in 1780 by John Adams and John Hancock, among others, to "convene leaders from every field of human endeavor to examine new ideas, address issues of importance to the nation and the world . . . and cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honor, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent, and virtuous people." Its current membership includes Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners and former U.S. presidents.

Concurrent to Patton's announcement, Ted Truscott '83, chair of the Middlebury Board of Trustees, said that Middlebury's search for its 18th president would be "an accelerated one and will focus on both the continuity of Middlebury values and preeminent qualities of leadership. We will be looking for a new president to build on the achievements of the past decade and take us to new heights. Our conversations and reflections throughout the search process will be steeped in the mission and character of this exceptional place: our shared commitment to immersive learning; our shared goal of preparing students to lead engaged, consequential, and creative lives; our shared expectation that our students will contribute to their communities and apply their Middlebury educations in a world that needs them."

Kirtley Horton Cameron '95, board vice chair, was asked to lead the search for the next president, and in July she announced the formation of a committee, which she will lead, consisting of 18 members of the community drawn from Middlebury's board, staff, faculty, administration, and both the student and alumni bodies. She also announced that the executive search firm Isaacson, Miller would assist in the search.

In the coming months, Middlebury will be planning a series of reflections and celebrations of Patton's tenure as president.

QUOTE/UNQUOTE

"I am fully confident that you are well equipped to live up to the expectations of your generation. I implore you to be courageous, to get up, to stand up, and to never, never give up the fight."

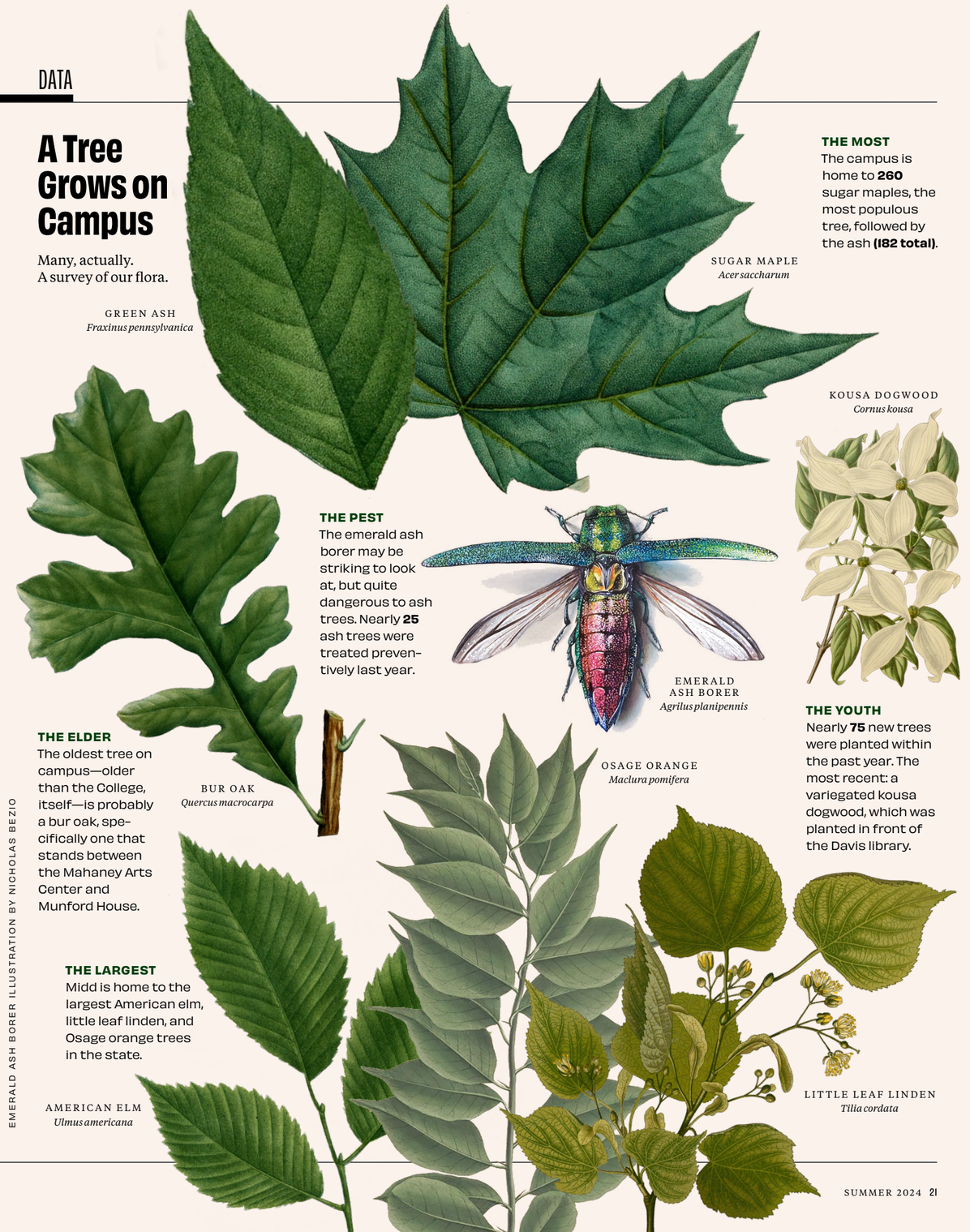
—Shorna-Kay Richards, Jamaica's ambassador to Japan, encouraged Middlebury Institute graduates to follow the advice of her countryman Bob Marley in seeking to change the world. Richards received an honorary doctorate and delivered the keynote address at the Institute's spring Commencement ceremony. She concluded her remarks by leading a delighted audience in singing a chorus of Marley's "One Love."

LACROSSE PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN BLUE/SIDELINE MEDIA PRODUCTIONS
SHORNA-KAY RICHARDS PHOTOGRAPH BY ROB ELLIS

DATA

A Tree Grows on Campus

Many, actually.
A survey of our flora.



THE MOST
The campus is home to **260** sugar maples, the most populous tree, followed by the ash **(182 total)**.

THE PEST
The emerald ash borer may be striking to look at, but quite dangerous to ash trees. Nearly **25** ash trees were treated preventively last year.

THE YOUTH
Nearly **75** new trees were planted within the past year. The most recent: a variegated kousa dogwood, which was planted in front of the Davis library.

THE ELDER
The oldest tree on campus—older than the College, itself—is probably a bur oak, specifically one that stands between the Mahaney Arts Center and Munford House.

THE LARGEST
Midd is home to the largest American elm, little leaf linden, and Osage orange trees in the state.

EMERALD ASH BORER ILLUSTRATION BY NICHOLAS BEZIO

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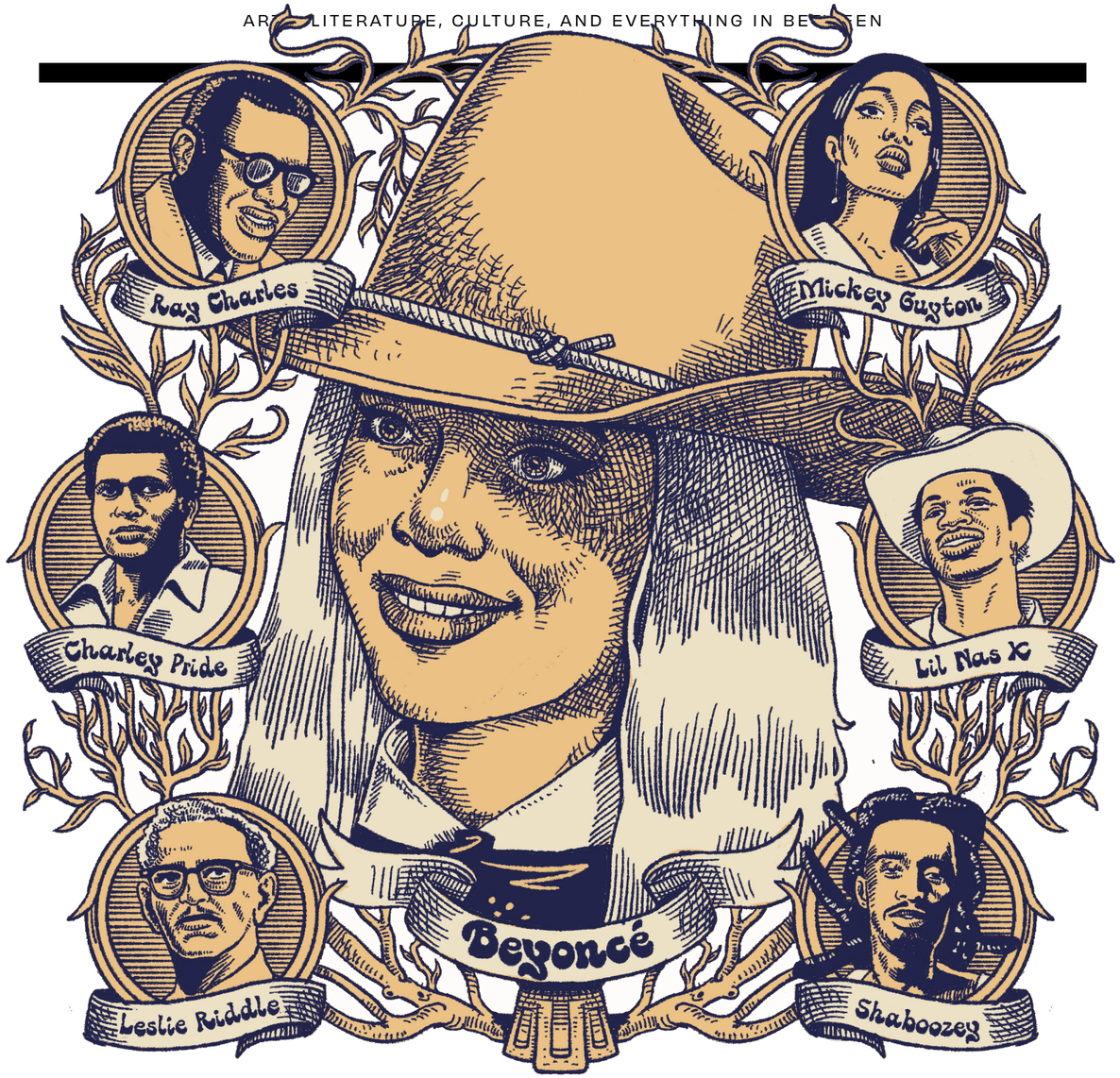
THE

MIDDLE

ART, LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN



IT'S TIME TO THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT **COUNTRY MUSIC**. AN AMERICAN STUDIES PROFESSOR EXPLAINS. **PAGE 24**

ILLUSTRATION BY THE HIGH ROAD DESIGN

The Beyoncé Effect

A scholar of American studies and chronicler of Black culture and country music suggests that a dogged stereotype may be nearing an end.

BY WILLIAM NASH

When Beyoncé released "Texas Hold 'Em," the first single from her new country album, *Cowboy Carter*, it elicited a mix of admiration and indignation.

This is not her first foray into the genre, but it is her most successful and controversial entry. With "Texas Hold 'Em," Beyoncé became the first Black woman to have a No. 1 song on the country charts. At the same time, country music stations like KYKC in Oklahoma initially refused to play the record because it was "not country."

Many non-listeners stereotype country music as being white, politically conservative, militantly patriotic, and rural. And you can certainly find artists and songs that fit that bill.

But the story of country has always been more complicated, and debates about race and authenticity in country are nothing new; they've plagued country artists, record companies, and listeners for over a century.

As someone who researches and teaches Black culture and country music, I hope that Beyoncé's huge profile will change the terms of this debate. (Among the courses I teach are The Cultural Work of Country Music, The Guitar in American Music, African American Literature, and Introduction to Black Studies.)

To me, Beyoncé's Blackness is not the major bone of contention here.

Instead, the controversy is about her "countryness," and whether a pop star can authentically cross from one genre to the next. Lucky for Beyoncé, it's been done plenty of times before. And her songs are arriving at a time when more and more Black musicians are charting country hits.

Cross-Racial Collaboration

Americans have long viewed country music—or, as it was known before World War II, hillbilly music—as largely the purview of white musicians. This is partly by design. The "hillbilly" category was initially created as a counterpart to the "race records" aimed at Black audiences from the 1920s to the 1940s.

But from the start, the genre has been influenced by Black musical styles and performances.

White country music superstars like the Carter Family and Hank Williams learned tunes and techniques from Black musicians Lesley Riddle and Rufus "Tee Tot" Payne, respectively. Unfortunately, few recordings of Black country artists from the early 20th century exist, and most of those who did record had their racial identity masked.

Johnny Cash's mentor, Gus Cannon, proves a rare exception. Cannon recorded in the 1920s with his jug band, Cannon's Jug Stompers, and he had a second wave of success during the folk revival of the 1960s.

Similarly, the genre has always included a mix of Anglo American and Black American musical instruments. The banjo, for instance, has African roots and was brought to America by enslaved people.

In the case of "Texas Hold 'Em," which begins with a lively banjo riff, Beyoncé has partnered with Grammy- and Pulitzer Prize–winning MacArthur Fellow Rhiannon Giddens, America's foremost contemporary Black banjoist and banjo scholar. (I would argue that this choice alone undercuts objections about the track's country bona fides.)

Different Tacks to Navigate Race

By releasing these tracks, Beyoncé joins performers like the late Charley Pride and Mickey Guyton—country stars whose success forced them to confront questions about the links between their racial and musical identities.

Pride, whose hits included "Kiss an Angel Good Mornin'," "Just Between You and Me," and "Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone?," became, in 1971, the first Black American to win the Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year Award. In 2000, he was the first Black American inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

But throughout his career, Pride resisted attempts to emphasize his Blackness. From his 1971 hit "I'm Just Me" to his 2014 refusal to discuss his racial "firsts" with a Canadian talk show host, Pride consistently strove to be seen as a country artist who happened to be Black, rather than as a country musician whose Blackness was central to his public persona and work.

At the other end of the spectrum is Guyton, who gained recognition and acclaim for songs like her 2020 hit "Black Like Me"—a frank, heartfelt commentary on the challenges she's faced as a Black woman pursuing a career in Nashville, Tennessee.

But the story of country has always been more complicated, and debates about race and authenticity in country are nothing new.

Both Pride and Guyton reflect the zeitgeists of their respective decades. In the wake of the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, Pride's "colorblind" approach enabled him to circumvent existing racial tensions. He chose his material with an eye toward averting controversy—for example, he eschewed love ballads, lest they be understood as promoting interracial relationships. At the start of his career, when his music was released without artist photos, Pride made jokes about his "permanent tan" to put surprised white concertgoers at ease.

Guyton's work, on the other hand, resonated with the national outrage over the murder of George Floyd and tapped into the celebration of Black empowerment that was part of the ethos of Black Lives Matter.

And yet I cannot think of another Black musical artist with Beyoncé's cultural cachet who has taken up country music.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL BUCKNER

Some might argue that Ray Charles, whose groundbreaking 1962 album, *Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music*, brought legions of new listeners to country artists, is a forerunner of Beyoncé's in this regard.

Without diminishing Charles's significance, I believe Beyoncé's new album outshines Charles's landmark recording.

With the release of *Cowboy Carter*—her eighth solo album—Beyoncé is asking us to reestablish the perceived boundaries of country music.

Black Country in the 21st Century

Over the past five years, in addition to the buzz over Lil Nas X's "Old Town Road," a significant number of Black musicians—including Darius Rucker, Kane Brown, Shaboozey, and Jimmie Allen, to name a few—have charted country hits.

The Black Opry Revue, founded in 2021 by music journalist Holly G, produces tours that bring together rising Black country musicians, giving each more exposure than performing individually could. One alumnus of the Black Opry Revue, Tae Lewis, was a serious contender on *The Voice* this season.

Luke Combs's cover of Tracy Chapman's "Fast Car" topped the country charts and made Chapman the first Black woman to win the Country Music Association's Song of the Year Award. Their performance of the song at the 2024 Grammys went viral, demonstrating both the fluidity of genres and the power of collaboration.

Beyoncé's loyal fan base, known colloquially as "the Beyhive," has already propelled "Texas Hold 'Em" to the top of the pop and country charts. While there may continue to be pushback from traditionalist country music gatekeepers, country radio executives holding sway over national broadcast networks are calling Beyoncé's new songs "a gift to country music."

As more and more listeners hear her directive to "just take it to the dance floor," perhaps the sonic harmony of the country genre will translate to a new way of thinking about whether socially constructed categories, like race, ought to segregate art.

And what a revolution that would be.

WILL NASH IS A PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN STUDIES AND ENGLISH AT MIDDLEBURY.

A VERSION OF THIS ESSAY ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN *THE CONVERSATION*.

OVERHEARD

Alt Woodstock

Singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams, writing in her best-selling memoir, *Don't Tell Anybody the Secrets I Told You.*

"I missed Woodstock. I just missed the Haight-Ashbury thing in San Francisco. I missed the folk era in Greenwich Village. . . . But I got to witness a cool literary scene. Most summers in the 1960s, we would travel to Middlebury, Vermont, and attend the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, which is like the Woodstock of writers' conferences. John Ciardi directed it for a while, and he brought my father into the fold and put him on the faculty. . . . Being at Bread Loaf was a higher level of something, although I'm sure that at the time I could not have said a higher level of what."

IN THE PIT

The Maestro

A classical music and opera conductor leads a production of what the *New York Times* has called "an American classic."

Kazem Abdullah has had quite the year. Last fall, the conductor—who attended the Portuguese School in the summer of 2009 and the German School in the summers of 2010 and 2011—conducted the Metropolitan Opera's premiere of *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*. The Met's production was only the second full revival of the original work, which was composed by Anthony Davis and first staged at the New York City Opera in 1986. In its review of the production, *OperaWire* said, "The conductor, Kazem Abdullah, coaxed luscious and cacophonous sounds from the incomparable Met orchestra, showing it can play any form of music required. Davis' Episteme jazz octet was in the pit, too. Abdullah worked tirelessly on the podium to bring the music and musicians together to form a powerful whole greater than the sum of its parts."

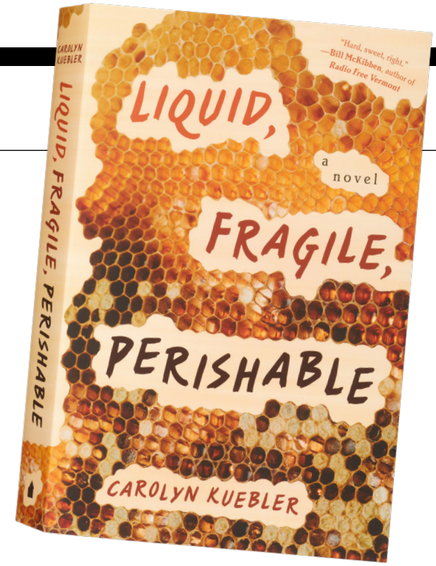
Since then, Abdullah—who conducts both concerts and operas—has led performances of *X* in a staging coproduced by the Seattle Opera; debuted as a conductor with the Naples (Florida) Philharmonic, the Kansas City Symphony, and the North Carolina Symphony; traveled to Berlin to conduct "yet unheard works" with the International Contemporary Ensemble; and made a return engagement with the Indianapolis Symphony.

This summer, Abdullah, who resides in Germany when not traveling, will conduct works of Brahms and Stravinsky, which will be performed by the Festival Orchestra of Lincoln Center as part of the New York institution's Summer for the City initiative.

REVIEW

SECRETS OF THE HIVE

In the debut novel from Carolyn Kuebler '90, life in a small Vermont town gets complicated with the arrival of a new family.



The first thing one notices when opening the artful debut from Carolyn Kuebler '90, *Liquid, Fragile, Perishable*: no paragraphs.

There are lines. Individual sentences for the most part. A cluster of three at most, set apart by a single stroke of the return key. And not just for a page or two. The entire novel unfolds this way, one line at a time, through shifting points of view. Many shifting points of view.

It's a risky choice.

Because you can't hide bad writing with your sentences displayed like that. It's *le mot juste* all the time, with every line at haiku-levels of word choice intentionality. Add to that the warnings writers are given to not overwhelm readers with too many characters and their myriad perspectives, and Kuebler has set herself a high bar.

Which she clears with room to spare. Like a master weaver, Kuebler threads her characters' wants and needs, their backstories and observations, line by line, as if the novel were the warp and weft of a great loom. The resulting narrative is not only an inventive, emotionally engaging page turner, but also a metaphor for the resilience of the community that animates this subtle, surprising book.

It's a community this Middlebury-based writer clearly knows well. Set in the fictional village of Glenville, Vermont, the story takes place over the course of 12 months, beginning and ending in springtime. A New York family of three—Sarah, Jeff, and their teenage son, Will—have decided to make Glenville their permanent home and have built a pricey, off-grid house on the site of the family's old hunting camp. Their arrival sets off a chain reaction of events.

One afternoon, Will, out for a walk, stumbles into a trio of high school girls and encounters the incandescent Honey, daughter of the local evangelical beekeeper. Will is lonely and directionless, counting down the weeks until he leaves for college; Honey is beautiful, homeschooled, and hungry for a life beyond the strictures set by her parents. Their chemistry is palpable.

Throughout the unusually early spring and warm summer, Will and Honey embark on a series of secret woodland trysts. Few know what's going on between these two, and those who do aren't happy about it, least of all Eli LeBeau. The overlooked, often-mocked outlier of a notorious Glenville family, Eli is obsessed with Honey, and has beaten countless criss-crossing footpaths through the forest to watch (some might say stalk) her. Oblivious to Eli's watchful eye and increasingly resentful, wrath-full heart, Will and Honey pursue their relationship—with inevitable results. Readers won't be surprised when 16-year-old Honey reveals her pregnancy. But when events take a tragic, unexpected turn, the members of this community are compelled to dig deep, to confront hard truths about what happened, and ultimately to ask, "How do we move forward?"

Kuebler's storytelling genius lies in the way she weaves an underlying menace into the fabric of this lovely place. At any given moment, we sense this cosseted community could arc toward tragedy. Lulled into the rhythms of the seasons and comforts of the familiar, the inhabitants of Glenville tend to lose sight of the potential danger that lurks behind their individual choices. How one's poor decisions could set everything asunder for many.

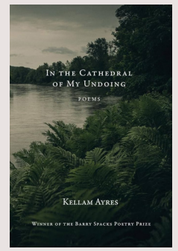
But while loss, change, and rebirth are inevitable, the question of whether and how we survive—in our relationships, in our communities, in our world—remains. Kuebler leaves us with no easy answers, although it's no accident that the final gift in this book is a shawl, woven by Sarah and Honey for the new baby.

Ultimately, the connections and commitments we form to each other and to the place we call home are what endures.

READ THE FULL REVIEW BY MARIA PADIAN '83 ON MIDDLEBURYMAGAZINE.COM.

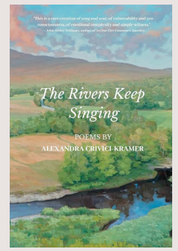
POET'S CORNER

A survey of poetry collections recently published by Middlebury bards.



IN THE CATHEDRAL OF MY UNDOING
Kellam Ayres, MA English '07

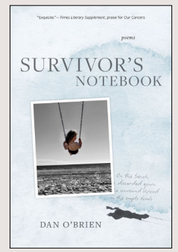
TO A SUNBEAM AND OTHER POEMS
Brandon Dumont, German School '09



THE RIVERS KEEP SINGING
Alexandra Crivici-Kramer, MA English '20

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HAPPY
Gary Margolis '67

THIS FAR NORTH
Jason Tandon '97.5, MA English '01



SURVIVOR'S NOTEBOOK
Dan O'Brien '96

Seeing the Forest for the Trees

ELENA VALERIOTE, MA ITALIAN '19

in conversation with

HANNAH LEWIS '97

ILLUSTRATION BY KARLOTTA FREIER

The forest stands taller than an adult human now, just three years after the small hands of children eagerly planted many of its trees, placing spindly roots into soft earth on a damp December day. Elm, yew, pedunculate oak, common hawthorn—the children, students of a nearby elementary school, were taught some of the plants' names beforehand. As the miniature stewards of this miniature forest, it was important for them to be properly introduced. For the next few years, it would be their responsibility to weed the land on this plot of 200 square meters and occasionally water its 23 native species.

By 2024, however, the forest has surpassed the height of the planters and is now fully self-sufficient. In this way, the plants have come to care for the community that first cared for them—offering shade on hot days, purifying the air, drawing carbon down from the atmosphere, facilitating the cycling of water between the Earth and the sky, and providing a verdant space to steal a moment of peace not far from the hustle and bustle of the town center, only a few minutes away.

This is the magic of the Miyawaki Method, an approach to reforestation that can be applied to all kinds of landscapes and is accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. With just a small piece of earth and a few willing helpers, it is possible to bring a forest to life and, in doing so, improve the lives of everyone around it.

This particular mini-forest is rooted in Roscoff, a village along the northwestern coast of France, where the land was once forested but for thousands of years has been utilized for agricultural production. There is the "memory of the forest here," says Hannah Lewis '97, who led the initiative to restore this ecosystem according to the techniques codified by Dr. Akira Miyawaki, a Japanese ecologist.

By focusing on fostering biodiversity and relationships between native species, Miyawaki developed a series of practices to recreate the conditions for an old-growth forest in the span of a single decade, rather than a couple of centuries, and all on just a few square feet of land. It is a fascination with these two qualities—speed and size—that has drawn so many people to the Miyawaki Method in the decades since the ecologist planted the first forest of its kind in Japan in the 1970s. As we face the overwhelming, urgent threat of ever more erratic weather patterns and evidence of environmental collapse, cultivating a mini-forest presents an opportunity to enact positive change in an immediate, tangible way.

Today there are Miyawaki forests on every continent except Antarctica. Lewis, herself, has facilitated plantings in both Europe and North America. In her book, *Mini-Forest Revolution: Using the Miyawaki Method to Rapidly Rewild the World*, and in our conversation, Lewis offers guidance to those interested in growing mini-forests in their own communities, as well as insight as to how rewilding the land near us can play a vital role in restoring the health of our planet as a whole.

Elena Valeriote: What was your first experience of feeling strongly connected with or otherwise emotional about a tree or a forest?

Hannah Lewis: It actually wasn't a tree or forest, but a milkweed. The summer before my senior year at Middlebury, I did a farming internship as part of my environmental studies major, and I got to live on a seven-acre diversified organic vegetable farm in West Topsham, Vermont, in the Green Mountains. I stayed in a small room in the barn, which faced a spring-fed pond where frogs lived, where we would sometimes swim after the workday to cool down and clean up. The farm was surrounded by forest, and there were trails through the forest that we [the farm interns] explored together on the weekends. Behind the barn were greenhouses, a simple three-bin composting system, and pastures with two draft horses and a Jersey heifer. There were two vegetables fields, I think, and the bigger one was adjacent to an area of tall, unmown grasses, which is where I remember being delighted by seeing the milkweed mature through stages that I had seen before—both flower and pod—but didn't know were connected, because I had never witnessed a milkweed plant throughout a whole season. That summer in the middle of the Green Mountains was probably my first emotional connection with nature, forests, and plants of any kind.

What was it then that initially led you to pursue environmental studies as a college student?

I think it was because I cared about the problems of the environment and knew that they were avoidable to a certain extent. When I got to Middlebury, I already had a lot of strong feelings about things like pollution and plastic and consumption. It took me a while to figure out that I wanted to do an environmental studies major, but once I started taking the courses, I had Environmental Policy with Christopher Klyza, and it was so interesting. I was surprised that when we were discussing environmental policy, a lot of what we were talking about was the farm bill. Growing up in a city, I didn't think about agriculture at all. Realizing what a huge impact farming policy has on the environment steered me in the direction of sustainable agriculture, which is what I have devoted most of my career to.

How did you first hear of the Miyawaki Method? What compelled you to take up the cause?

I heard about it while working for the Massachusetts-based nonprofit Biodiversity for a Livable Climate in 2018, but really, it all began for me before that. My twins were born in 2014, and that was one of the years that an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report came out. Whenever an IPCC report is released, there's a flurry of news articles, and I remember the juxtaposition of having newborn twins and reading those articles. I'm actually getting teary just talking about that . . . [*A pause*]. I didn't expect that at all. [*A breath*] There was this language about how we have a certain number of years to drastically ratchet back our consumption and emissions to avoid the worst tipping points. It was all so immediate that the changes needed to be made, and I was thinking: "Where are the rallies and marches? I need to get out there and be part of the voice trying to make people wake up about this." I found my way to Biodiversity for a Livable Climate eventually, through connecting with other people doing climate-related work in D.C., where I was living at the time, before we moved to France in 2016. My job there was focused on the power of nature, rather than modern technological solutions, to stabilize things. I was reading a lot of scientific articles about the relationship between ecosystems and climate. I had this feeling that education is so important, but I also wanted to help heal a small patch of land. It was then that I read a story online about a couple in Nantes who had started a mini-forest. The Miyawaki Method clicked for me like I think it clicks for many people. I reached out to them right away, then proposed a mini-forest at the school where my kids were going and carried on from there.

There are three fairly familiar words in the title and subtitle of your book that I think could be helpful to redefine or discuss in more detail within this particular context: *forest, revolution,* and *rewild.* First, could you talk about the formal definition of a forest and what it is that sets the forests designed according to the Miyawaki Method apart from other gatherings of trees?

Yeah, that's a good question—there are whole articles written about the vagueness of the word forest. The United Nations defines forest as an area of at least a half hectare that's covered at least 10 percent by trees that reach a certain minimum height. I think that definition was developed in relation to the budding of a global forest industry. But when I speak about forests, I use an ecological definition, describing them as a biological community that's dominated by trees, where you have multiple types of trees and plants and microorganisms interacting with each other. For a mini-forest specifically, I think of it as an ecosystem that is small enough that we can plant it in the spaces around where we live and work.

> *"We plant trees all the time, but we do it to make places look pretty. This method is a way of thinking about landscaping as a way to restore ecosystems around us and build resilience that will help us adapt to climate change and, little by little, contribute to mitigating climate change, too."*

After *mini-forest,* the next word in your book's title is *revolution.* What is it about the Miyawaki Method that you consider to be revolutionary, and what is the hope for the outcome of this movement?

For me, there are two meanings related to the term *revolution* in this context. One goes back to that spark that hits people when they hear about the Miyawaki Method. There was this whole length of Miyawaki's career where he was taking the method and implementing it across Japan and all over the world. Then it got picked up by Shubhendu Sharma [founder of Afforestt, a Miyawaki mini-forest social enterprise] whose TED Talk video spread on the Internet. It clicked with that moment in time, with people recognizing how big of a role mini-forests can play in trying to resolve the situation we're in. Every time people hear about the Miyawaki Method for the first time, there's another wave of excitement and activity. That's one "revolution," and the other is this paradigm shift in terms of planting in public spaces. We plant trees all the time, but we do it to make places look pretty. This method is a way of thinking about landscaping as a way to restore ecosystems around us and build resilience that will help us adapt to climate change and, little by little, contribute to mitigating climate change, too.

Speaking of restoring ecosystems, can you expand on how that relates here to the concept of rewilding?

My understanding of rewilding is that it is trying to restore ecosystem processes—like pollination and migration—and to recreate those links that make it a viable place to live for all the species that make it up. For a mini-forest, we are trying to create the original forest community that would be growing at any given site if it had never been cleared in the first place.

How would you describe the relationship between people and forests?

Well, oh my gosh, to me, that is actually a very deep question. We depend on forests for so much—for our air and our climate and regulating water cycles. Forests absorb rainwater and cycle it back up to the atmosphere to come down again in a downwind area as rain, so forests help move moisture originating in the ocean into the interior of continents. Forests also have local and regional cooling effects and are the habitat of countless species. Native biodiversity is important because the interactions among species are key to ecosystem productivity and stability. Forests are no more or less valuable than every other type of biome, and the intactness of all types of natural habitats is central to what makes our planet not only beautiful, but habitable. We evolved out of forests—they are at the root of our lineage as humans. Those are pretty deep connections. All of that drove me to write this book.

In your writing, you explore how in our past and present we have relied on forests to provide food and shelter and materials. For our future, what are some of the important qualities in a forest that make it best able to withstand climate change and even reverse it? Do you consider planting a forest to be a real solution to the climate crisis?

A mini-forest is a human-sized solution. It is something that many individuals or communities are actually able to do, so in that sense, it's really important as a solution. Then there's the fact that forests are critical to the water cycle. Since the movement of water—especially in terms of extremes, such as storms and droughts—is one of the big effects of climate change, they're a huge part of any solution. The roots of trees and plants can hold the land, preventing erosion, while also feeding the underground ecosystem, including all the fungi that hold the structure of the soil so that it has space for water and air, making it like a giant sponge. During heavy rains, a forest can help deal with floodwater, and during a drought it can make water available for longer. Cooling is another function of forests because there's not just

"We evolved out of forests—they are at the root of our lineage as humans. Those are pretty deep connections. All of that drove me to write this book."

shade, but also transpiration. With the Miyawaki Method, you plant densely and then, after just three years, the plants and trees form this canopy that holds the moisture and coolness in the system. Cumulatively over the whole globe, ecosystems offer a temperature regulating effect and that balances out with the albedo effect, which is the reflectiveness of light surfaces. On the mitigation side, everybody knows that a leaf takes in carbon dioxide through photosynthesis, but what I think is worth contemplating is the difference between a single tree and a dense, biodiverse forest ecosystem. There's not only that vertical depth of how much CO_2 can be absorbed, there's the greater surface area that's absorbing light and heat. If you maintain or cultivate plant cover, carbon can be held there, whereas every time you clear it, it goes up into the atmosphere. To me, it's a profound thought that expanding ecosystems and making them as healthy as possible is actually changing the equation and pulling down that atmospheric carbon pool and putting it into the land.

One thing that you write about that I think is especially important for people to understand is the difference between a Miyawaki forest and other types of manmade forests in terms of environmental impact. What is the power of planting a Miyawaki forest in comparison to, for example, a forest for timber?

First, the goal is different—one is creating a product for profit and the other is creating an ecosystem. A person could think, "At least this land is being used to grow trees, so doesn't that help a little bit?" And yes, a timber forest is probably better than a giant parking lot. But, ecologically speaking, it's a temporary situation since those trees will be harvested at the end of 30 years or so. Then there's the lack of biodiversity. In Minnesota, you can see an example of what can happen without biodiversity in the way that Dutch elm disease spread in the 1980s. Most of the trees planted here were elm, so when Dutch elm disease arrived, it was a free-for-all with the pests. If just 10 percent of that one species had been mixed with others, the insects would have had to look hard to find the next one. With more pest pressure, more pesticides are used to control them, putting poison into the ecosystem. Then there's the question of whether the trees are native or not. If you're planting a particular timber tree that grows fast and is not native, it's not necessarily going to support any of the life forms that depend on the native species. For example, most plant species in the world depend on fungal partners to help them get nutrients and water. A tree feeds sugars to its mycorrhizal partners in the ground in an exchange of nutrients and water. When you clear cut an area, those fungi are suddenly exterminated because they have lost their food source from the trees. It's not just the trees that are impacted, not even just everything that lives above ground—it's a complex system of interdependence.

That's a really helpful way of highlighting how many communities are impacted by a forest, spanning from the fungi and life within the soil all the way through to the plants and animals that live on the land, including humans. Can you share an example of some of the social impacts of forests and their roles in our communities?

We will be planting another mini-forest in Saint Paul [Minnesota] and that'll be my first one here in the U.S. since moving back from France. It will be in the Rondo neighborhood at the Pilgrim Baptist Church. This neighborhood was the center of African American enterprise in the 1950s. Then the interstate highway was built right through the middle of it, dispossessing people of their wealth and their businesses and their homes. The repercussions of that remain today. My project partner, Melvin Giles, lives in the Rondo community and works at Renewing the Countryside [a Minneapolis-based nonprofit focused on sustainability and rural communities]. He's been an activist and community builder for a long time. Our other key partner is Molly Codding, who is the community environmental justice coordinator at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which has provided funding for the planting. We have several other partners who have been integral, but it was kind of magical teamwork between Melvin, Molly, and me that gave the project its first breath of life.

We started working with the church, which already has a community garden and has been a pillar of the community since before the highway was put there. There's also an elementary school just down the street. It's beside the interstate, so the noise and the pollution are constant. We will have two fifth-grade classes planting with us, and then we'll have community members come the following day. On the planting day, we're going to take a walk across the highway to a place called Rondo Plaza that memorializes the community that had been there, what was destroyed, and how they've tried to build back. We're doing a time capsule, too. The kids will make little tree cookies—you know, when you slice a flat round piece of a branch. There will be the names of the tree species written on them, and the kids get to sign their names, too. They'll also write something on an index card about what is significant in their lives as fifth graders and what they hope to happen by the time they're seniors in high school, which is when they'll come back to pick up the time capsule. It's really cool how planting the mini-forest is an opportunity to root people in the history of the local community and try to continue to heal and send it on a positive trajectory going forward by increasing green space and connecting people to nature.

In your personal planting experiences and research, what have you seen as the most significant challenge to starting a mini-forest?

Finding the right site is a big challenge. When I first started thinking about mini-forests, everywhere I looked seemed like a mini-forest site, but not everybody has that vision. You have to find a place where your vision matches with other people's visions for a particular piece of land.

"It's really cool how planting the mini-forest is an opportunity to root people in the history of the local community and try to continue to heal and send it on a positive trajectory going forward by increasing green space and connecting people to nature."

That's an interesting reinterpretation of "when you have a hammer, everything looks like a nail." What is your advice for someone who wants to start a mini-forest in their community? What is the first step to take?

The first step is getting acquainted with the local plant species. Pay attention to the trees along the streets and learn to identify them. The whole beauty of the process is that it is a tool to help you connect with ecosystems around you. Another big and sometimes challenging step is finding partners. I have heard from a few people who say that they can't find anybody who wants to join them. If you are at that point, you need to keep talking to people, because you are going to find somebody eventually, and once you have a team, it becomes more fun. That was kind of my situation in Roscoff [France]. At first, it was just me. When I proposed the mini-forest to the mayor, they were like: "You have a strange accent. Where are you from? Who are you?" Then when I teamed up with an environmental organization, the project grew legs of its own.

For people who are curious to learn more about the Miyawaki Method, do you have any recommendations for further reading or resources?

There is Miyawaki's book, of course, but it is a limited edition, so it's a bit hard to get your hands on. Then there's a lot of information and links to additional articles on my website. There's also a young woman, Angelina Lee, who's in the process of creating a documentary called *Making a Mini-Forest*. She filmed some of the sites mentioned in the book.

In this current moment, when it comes to the climate crisis, what is your greatest concern? What gives you hope?

The source of my greatest concern is that the climate is affected by the economic system that we have, which is so entrenched that it is hard to imagine changing it. What gives me a lot of hope is the Sunrise Movement. I like all of the energy of young people like Greta Thunberg. It is so wonderful to see people putting themselves out there and really seriously engaging with the problem. Paul Hawken, who wrote the foreword for the book, wrote a book called *Blessed Unrest*. His idea was that people everywhere are doing environmental work because they know it's important, but their work just isn't always being seen. All of the excitement that I have witnessed about the Miyawaki Method is one example of that blessed unrest. M

A Visual Guide to Undergraduate Commencement

A meld of tradition and contemporary touches as we celebrate the Middlebury Class of 2024

illustrations by Eric Hanson

What They Are Wearing

A cap, gown, and hood make up the regalia donned by faculty for the occasion. Doctoral hoods are color coded to the degree-granting institution, as are many robes. Discerning observers can instantly differentiate between the cardinal red of Stanford and the crimson of Harvard.

Flags of Grads

The flags of 40 nations—from Antigua and Barbuda to Mongolia to Vietnam—each representing the home countries of graduating seniors, flew high atop Voter Hall.

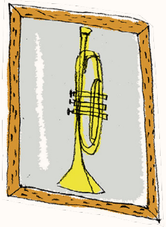
Adayliah Ley, Student Speaker

During the College's first years in the early 19th century, every graduate spoke at Commencement. While this tradition faded away in the 1950s, it was revived, in part, during Middlebury's bicentennial celebration in 2000. Since then one graduate has been chosen by peers to address the class. This year's student speaker was Adayliah Ley, a history of art and architecture major.

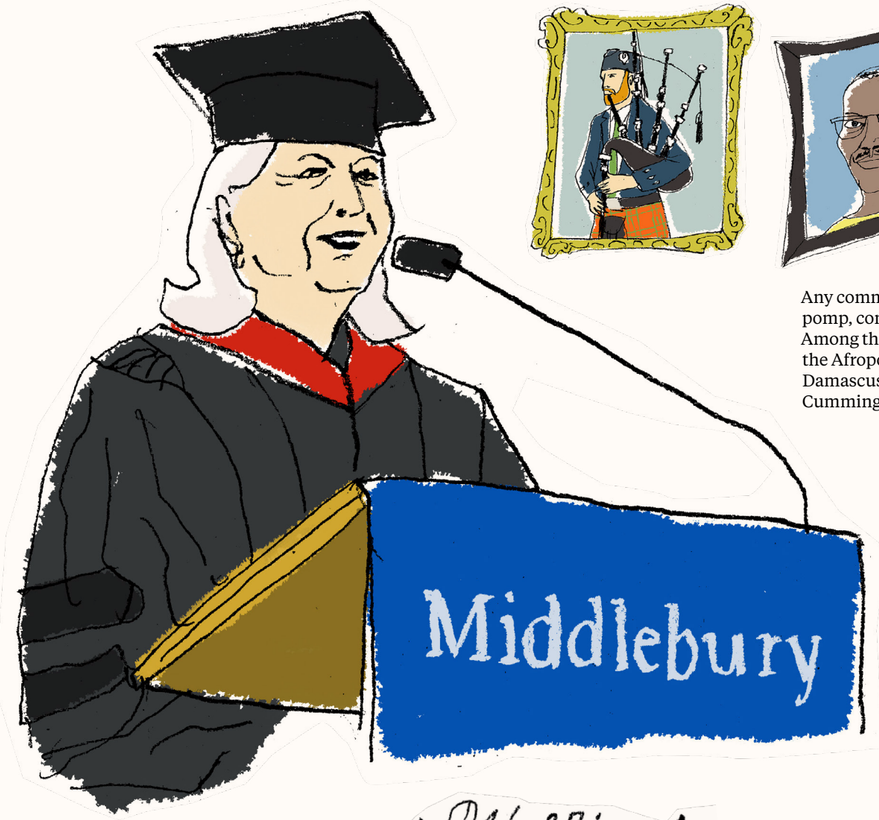
This year's ceremony marked the final undergraduate Commencement for Middlebury President Laurie Patton, who will become the president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Her Final Commencement

The Sounds of Commencement



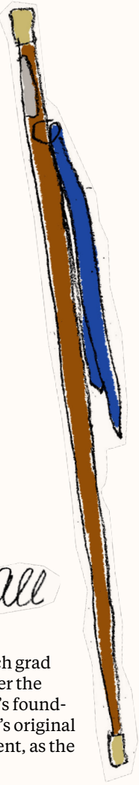
Any commencement delivers plenty of pomp, considering the circumstances. Among the musical talent on hand this year: the Afropop band, conducted by Professor Damascus Kafumbe; Professor Timothy Cummings on bagpipes; and a brass quintet.



Terry Tempest Williams, Keynote Speaker

"Storms are blowing around the world, physically and metaphorically. The winds of change are strong. We have a history of bravery in this country, and we must call it forward now. A liveable future is guaranteed only by the degree of our personal engagement, the size of our hearts, and our commitments to build trust in our capacity to work together."

—TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS, *AUTHOR AND COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER*



A Cane for All

In addition to a diploma, each grad receives a cane, modeled after the walking stick of Middlebury's founder, Gamaliel Painter. Painter's original cane is carried by the president, as the institution's official mace.

NO JOKE

WRITTEN BY
CAROLINE CRAWFORD

PHOTOS BY
KATHRYN RILEY

Flair, halftime song-and-dance routines, and a plastic swan for a coach can't take away from the fact that in women's D-III Ultimate

the Pranksters are seriously good.

On a Sunday afternoon in early May, the women of the Middlebury Pranksters Ultimate Frisbee team were standing in the pelting rain on the sidelines of a soggy soccer field at Williams College. They were wearing Hefty contractor-sized trash bags—some with two players to a bag—and were wrapped in Mylar blankets while a stiff wind blew and temperatures hovered in the upper 40s.

The score was 4–3, with the Pranksters up one point at halftime against Williams during their last game of the New England Regionals tournament, while they were fighting their way to earn a bid to the Division III College Ultimate National Championships for the fifth year in a row.

Ultimate is, for the uninitiated, a traditionally counterculture club sport. It features moves like hucks, hammers, scoobers, and pulls, and has an informality and outright goofiness—from handmade uniforms to sideline antics—that's not remotely possible in NCAA varsity sports. Men and women at Middlebury have been playing Ultimate for nearly 50 years, but in the past several years, the program—especially the women's program—has built a national reputation for being one of the strongest, if not the strongest, D-III Ultimate programs in the country.

This is Middlebury women's Ultimate: a team of almost 30 athletes, excelling at a grueling sport while doing handsprings on the sidelines, and dressing in glittery gowns, cowboy hats, and thrifted T-shirts. How can they be so free-spirited while also being so good? And how long can they keep it up?

BIDDING FOR A BERTH

As the 2024 college Ultimate season began, the Middlebury Pranksters women's team were the reigning and record-breaking three-time D-III national champions. But their bid to the 2024 championship was not a guarantee.

After sweeping the D-III women's Ultimate competition for the last few years, and even going more than a full season without a loss, the 2024 spring season had been a challenging one. They'd won their last national title in May 2023, and then the team had lost 11 seniors, including Claire Babbott-Bryan '23, named the 2022 Player of the Year by the website Ultiworld. In their place, 10 first-year students and three sophomores joined the team, most of whom hadn't played a single game of Ultimate before.

This year's team was captained by Sarah Rifkin '24, Keziah Wilde '24, Pearl Tulay '24, Grace Sokolow '24, and Grace Valentine '24.5, all of whom had played on the past three years' championship teams. They were faced with a choice. Having never seen success like the women's team had enjoyed the last several years, should they focus more on defending their title or on rebuilding a program?

"While our goal is to make it to Nationals, we have to acknowledge it's a developmental season," Rifkin said in the early spring. "We want to build a team for the next four years, not the next four weeks."

On that wet May day, they were grappling with that choice. To get to Nationals, they had to win against Williams, a team they'd beaten the day before by one point during the Regionals' sunny first day. But the captains didn't huddle around a coach. Instead, the entire team circled up, talked, and then started dancing. It was halftime after all, and such performances were part of what the Pranksters were known for. When the second half began, they held their opponents to a single point while the victorious Pranksters went on to score four more and confirm their berth at Nationals, which was scheduled for May 17–20, in Milwaukee.

When the game was over, they rushed the field, hugged each other, and then serenaded Williams with their version of "Tik Tok" by Kesha.

A TEAM OF THEIR OWN

Unlike most teams—including most college Ultimate teams—the Middlebury Pranksters women's and men's teams, who refer to themselves as the MLP (Middlebury Lady Pranksters) and MGP (Middlebury Guy Pranksters), see themselves—and often function—as a single program. They practice together, eat together, celebrate together, and often travel together, although they don't compete together.

That kind of mutual collaboration and respect has brought the two teams a considerable amount of success, especially in recent years.

But there wasn't always an equal dynamic.

The Middlebury Pranksters Ultimate Frisbee Club originated in 1977. "I was introduced to Ultimate late into my freshman year at Midd," said Tim Rockwood '80, now managing director of broadcasting for the World Flying Disc Federation. While he had been a star soccer player and track-and-field athlete at his high school, he said, "I quickly decided I didn't want to spend my time with those groups. That's about when I learned that 'if a ball could dream, it would be a Frisbee.' The late Tom Rooney '80 from Buffalo, and Carl Howard '81 from the Bronx, had each learned how to play Ultimate in their hometowns—they were our 'Johnny Appleseeds.' They started it all and taught us how to throw. We already knew how to run and catch. Our first game was in September 1977 against Williams College WUFO, a.k.a. Williams Ultimate Frisbee Organization (Pranksters victorious)."

PREVIOUS SPREAD: Liz Crawford, Ruby Warner, Pearl Tulay, Grace Sokolow, Jade Zalaznik, Celeste Alden, and Keziah Wilde preparing for the pull at the Division III College Ultimate Regional Championships this past May.

One of the first women to play with the Pranksters was Corinne Corrigan '81.

"In the spring of 1978, I saw some men playing Ultimate on Battell Beach," she recalled. "They were—from my perspective—super athletic, talented, really good-looking, and fun, and they welcomed me to play with them."

Corrigan recruited her friend Kim Holtan '81 and several others. "Did we women know what Ultimate was? Not really. We had thrown a Frisbee at the beach or to a dog. We would practice throwing and catching on the sidelines while the guys played. This was a time when most of what was available in the sports store was men's cleats, and sports bras were pretty basic, but we liked to run and catch Frisbees, and we brought music to the sideline so we could dance during practice."

Even with few other women to play with, Corrigan persevered. "I was a woman, often the token woman, on the Pranksters. I traveled with the men's team to tournaments at UVM, Williams, and UMass Amherst and Dartmouth, and I would be put in on a point when we were ahead." (Today's rules require that a mixed team have at least two female players, but that rule didn't exist then.)

"The opposing team would then match me with the fastest, tallest guy, and they would of course immediately score. I was really motivated to have women playing women, to have an all-women's team. So I created WUFAM (Women's Ultimate Frisbee at Middlebury) in the spring of '81, and we went to UMass Amherst and played in a tournament against some of the earliest women's teams from UMass and Cornell, and the women's club team from Boston, BLU. We had just enough people for a women's team, barely. Some hadn't played a field sport before nor were they particularly fast runners, but they were all good sports."

"Corinne is the single force behind WUFAM," Holtan recalled in an email. "She scraped that first women's Middlebury team together by hook or crook—I mean, she kind of kidnapped players to complete a roster. There were some lacrosse and field hockey players who were up for the super fun and that gave us sufficient numbers. When we played, or went to a tournament or to a party, we always dressed for success. By success I mean fun(k)—bling, glitter, rhinestones, colorful prints, spots, animal patterns, faux fur—anything funky. I like how the Pranksters continue to have outstanding colorful expression."

That "colorful expression"—alternatives to the standard athletic uniform, including dresses and tutus, fish hats, boas, and capes—are what the team now refers to as "flair." "Flair means something different to everyone," said Sokolow, "It doesn't need to be earned or bought; it is shared with love."

More than anything, flair is synonymous with being a Prankster. "It's fun to look not serious but to play seriously." The teams keep bins of flair that travel with them to tournaments and they wear it whenever standard uniforms aren't required (which is every game besides the national championships—and they often try to push the envelope there, too).

"WE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO BE GOOD"

Ultimate quickly became a popular college club sport, at Middlebury and nationwide. The first official college championships were held in 1984, with just a men's division. The women's division was added in 1987, and the Division III championships were introduced in 2010 to expand the opportunity for national-level competition for colleges and universities with student populations under 7,500. There are now over 12,000 students playing Ultimate on more than 700 college teams in North America.

But by the mid-1980s, WUFAM, the separate Middlebury women's Ultimate team, disintegrated. It reemerged in 1987 and then faded away. Joel Thompson '94, who played for the Pranksters in the early '90s, recalled in an email that during his first two years on the team, they practiced and played as a mixed team because there weren't enough women to form a team. "1992 was the year that we finally launched a women's team—relaunched, as it turns out. We didn't know at the time that there had been a women's team before then."

> "There was no coach. But everyone was super nice and wacky and weird. And I remember feeling like an equal to the men's team in all sorts of ways."
>
> MARTHA CROOTOF UHL '04

Martha Crootof Uhl '04 played on the new iteration of the women's team in the early 2000s. "We had a core group of really committed players" on the women's team, she said, "who wanted to be good—but we didn't know how to be good. We were learning 15-year-old plays that had been handed down by the team. There was no coach. But everyone was super nice and wacky and weird. And I remember feeling like an equal to the men's team in all sorts of ways. We shared responsibilities together. We helped each other out on the sidelines. That was not a dynamic we saw with other teams."

In 2010, both MGP and MLP went to Nationals for the first time. Uhl and several of her alumni teammates spontaneously flew to Wisconsin to watch the games. MGP finished 11th, and MLP finished dead last, but the Pranksters' time on the national stage had begun. In 2013, MGP won the national D-III title, and then returned to Nationals again in 2015. MLP and MGP both went to Nationals in 2019, when the men won again, and the women took fifth.

Momentum was building. As Ultimate became a more established sport, the Pranksters dug in on their identity, which included being completely player coached—supported by a plastic swan named Steve.

Yes. A plastic swan. (Well, more like a goose, really.) Named Steve.

Steve Swan, also known as Swan Steve, is the only "coach" the team has ever had, which is to say, it has no coach other than the athletes themselves. Steve's current iteration is a large plastic lawn ornament that wears different outfits, including a pink bikini, and a yellow slicker and matching hat, to tournaments. The original Swan Steve became part of the team in 1977. Michael Pearson '80 recalled, "Steve joined the Pranksters early on—he was a toy extracted from a barrel inside a hardware store and immediately joined the sidelines of all Prankster activities, past, present, and future. It's believed Steve embodies the truest love for Frisbee, Ultimate or otherwise."

While Middlebury's tier-one competitive club sports, such as rugby, equestrian, sailing, and crew, have coaches, in part due to their high-risk exposure, Ultimate—considered a tier-two sport despite being played at a national level—does not. "The movement toward more coaches has been prevalent in recent years, especially for Nationals-level D-III teams," said Anna Browne, a sports writer who covers Ultimate for Ultiworld. "While having coaches is definitely helpful, teams like the Pranksters have demonstrated that a coach is not required to play at a high level." Besides, an official coach is

What is Ultimate? And why isn't it called "Frisbee"?

Ultimate, a noncontact, self-refereed team sport created in the late 1960s, is played with a flying disc (a.k.a. Frisbee, which is a brand name of disc). To play, two teams of seven players defend opposite end zones on a playing field. A team scores a goal, and earns a point, if one of their players catches the disc in the opposite end zone. Players can't run with the disc; they pass it by throwing it. As "an organic sport developed by a bunch of hippies" (as Tim Rockwood says), it has a unique lingo. Here are a few key terms:

Cutter

An offensive player that typically tries to get open on motion downfield, gaining yards for the offense.

Handler

A player that typically touches the disc a lot and serves as a thrower, like a quarterback in football.

Huck

A long-distance throw, typically over 30 yards.

Pull

The throw from one team starting in their own end zone to their opponents on the other side of the field that starts each point.

Spirit of the Game

Players are responsible for knowing and following the rules, for playing fairly, and for communicating clearly and calmly. Teams receive "Spirit" scores at tournaments.

Universe Point

Ultimate's version of "sudden death," when the winner of the current point will win the game.

counter to the Pranksters collaborative, self-directed culture, the teams say.

It's also an added cost. Club sports are funded like other student activities, through money budgeted by the Student Association. Each season, the program is allotted a certain amount of funds.

Anything that they want to do that costs more than what they've been alloted—from competitive tournaments, to transportation, to uniforms—they fund themselves. Such restrictions require a certain level of scrappiness. There's no traveling on charter buses—players drive themselves in their own cars or borrow Middlebury vans, and they've been known to cram nearly the entire men's and women's teams into a rental house or two (first-year students often have to sleep on the floor), or bunk in with players' parents.

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

All this history is what brought MLP to the 2024 season.

After they won their third national championship in May 2023, Ultiworld noted, "It takes a lot to make a championship team, but it takes more to make a championship program. Middlebury has a championship program, and that's what captains Claire Babbott-Bryan and Niamh Carty wanted to express the most after the game. 'In 2021 and even last year in 2022, we were emerging as a program in terms of our systems and in terms of our trust for each other and our chemistry and our confidence,' Babbott-Bryan said with tears of pride in her eyes. 'I think everything really solidified this game and this season for us which is a profound feeling because it means that there's been a past and a present, but there's also a future.'"

The future is what the Ultimate captains had been thinking about. After their record run—no D-III Ultimate team, men's or women's, had won three national titles in a row—a third of the team graduated. They now had more than a dozen new players to mentor and teach the game to while also building a leadership team and improving play.

As Ultimate became a more established sport, the Pranksters dug in on their identity, which included being completely player coached—supported by a plastic swan named Steve.

Based on their performance the past few years, the women had a plan: to build community in the fall, and then move into a bold spring season going to tournaments in Texas and Boston to play against some of the best D-I women's teams in the country.

Community building is as important to the Pranksters as skills building. On both the men's and women's teams, one member of leadership is the "social captain," and it's their job to intentionally create a sense of belonging and shared values and goals. "For a lot of people," said Pearl Tulay, the women's social captain, "the Pranksters serve as their primary social sphere. Team members need to learn the game, and they also need to learn who the Pranksters are, what our traditions are, and what it means to be part of the community."

Community building means scavenger hunts and themed parties ("Jersey Shore" and "Western Night" were two of the events), swimming in the river after practice, and making spray-paint jerseys, but also community standards trainings and expectation setting.

"Our community standards meeting happens every fall," Sokolow explained. "The point is to share the responsibilities of making this community a safe, welcoming, accessible, fun, and adaptable space with the people who take part in it. It's a collective responsibility. We gather everyone who is interested in being a part of the Pranksters community and explain our community norms."

They also discuss party culture, and their zero-tolerance policy for hazing, sexual assault, and violence.

In the spring, they host a follow-up community workshop, where they revisit these themes and other issues that may arise throughout the course of the year.

Once the community foundations had been set for this year, the spring semester play began in earnest. But their plans for a bold spring season didn't go as they'd expected.

The MLP's first tournament, Centex in Austin, Texas, placed them as the number one seed, based on their performance in 2023. That year, they had surprised the field (though not themselves) by beating every Division I team they'd played. This year, they lost four out of six games—the first losses the team had experienced in more than two years.

In Ultimate, players primarily throw a backhand or forehand (a.k.a. a "flick," pictured here). A long throw can be called a "huck," and an overhead a "hammer."

From Centex, they headed to the New England Open. They won more games than they lost but were beaten decisively by the D-I teams from the University of Connecticut and UMass Amherst. They found themselves moving into the season's playoffs not only no longer the number one D-III team in the country, but not even the number one team in northern New England.

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

This year, MLP had chosen to play against Division I teams—but there are big differences between D-I and D-III.

"D-III Ultimate is commonly referred to as the People's Division," said Anna Browne. "Unlike in other college sports, most notably NCAA sports, the breakdown between D-I and D-III is not determined by scholarship money, but instead is based solely on school size. Schools under 7,500 total students (undergraduate and graduate) can elect to compete in the D-III division against other smaller schools.

"What this usually means is that smaller schools, typically liberal arts schools, have an opportunity to take center stage on a regional and national level. The D-III division feels like Ultimate at its roots, with almost all players coming to the sport through word of mouth in college. While most players have thrown a disc before, relatively none (compared to D-I), even on the best D-III teams, have played an organized game of Ultimate prior to joining their college team."

"With the school size restriction placed on D-III, this means that the pool of available players for a D-III women's team is even smaller compared to their D-I counterparts. It's common for teams to be struggling to get 15 players, and they bring around 10 to some regular season tournaments. Because of this, a team's skill can be broadly different if they are missing a few star players from tournament to tournament."

The Pranksters have no problem filling their rosters. This year, MGP had enough players to have both an A-team and a B-team, and MLP's roster had almost 30 players. More players than usual had played Ultimate before joining the team. On this year's MLP roster, nine of the players played Ultimate in high school. Three players were from Vermont, where Ultimate became recognized as a high school varsity sport in 2017. Several were from the Seattle area, and from Boston and Western Massachusetts, where highly competitive youth club Ultimate teams are popular.

In the new recruits, the Pranksters also had plenty of high school athletes from other sports.

Makenna Bachman '27 had played lacrosse and field hockey since elementary school. "I had forgotten what learning to play a new sport feels like. It was exciting to start from the bottom

Annie Art, Molly Snow, Molly Caplan, Amelia Hayward, and Pearl Tulay take a dance break at halftime during D-III Regionals at Williams College.

and have so much room to improve," she said. "Learning to play Ultimate was a bit overwhelming at first. But everyone was super helpful, and they cultivated an environment where it felt okay to make mistakes."

Annie Art '27, another high school athlete with no prior Ultimate experience, agreed. "The Pranksters' wealth of knowledge about the sport is so deep. Without a coach, there is a lot of responsibility on the captains to teach newcomers every aspect of the game, which they did remarkably well. They taught each skill multiple times in different ways, making it understandable to everyone."

What they needed from their new players was commitment, said Sokolow. "Having everyone at every practice allowed us to build from basics to more complicated strategies and drills. So much of our success in teaching this year was due to how hard our newer friends worked to get up to speed on both basic throwing/catching skills and offensive and defensive strategy. Many of the players who now know a lot or can play at a very high level learned everything (or almost everything) they know about Frisbee at Middlebury. We try to remind folks of that as often as possible so that they remember what's possible for themselves."

Bachman recalls feeling how things "clicked" for her at Regionals. "I really, really, really wanted to make it to Nationals, and I felt like I had finally learned enough to stop thinking and just start playing. Despite, or maybe even because of, the horrendous weather, the energy and chemistry on and off the field was amazing that day. I had so much fun and walked away feeling happy about how I played, which doesn't always happen, especially since I'm still new to the sport."

EVERY PLAYER ON THE FIELD

The second week of May, MLP was on a familiar journey. They were heading back to Nationals to defend their title. Last year they'd made history by being the first program to win the championships three years in a row. Would a "four-peat" be possible?

According to USA Ultimate, the sport's governing body, it wasn't likely. Instead of being the top seed at the tournament, MLP was in the unfamiliar position of being seeded 10. (MGP, who had a stellar 2024 spring season, was the number one seed in the men's division.)

"Our original season goal was to play as many games as possible," said Sokolow. "After Regionals, we asked the team what their goals were going into Nationals, and arrived at a mindset that was primarily competitive (for example, favoring stronger players in order to win games), while still making sure that everyone would get to play."

They planted Swan Steve, dressed his best in a red strawberry suit, on the sidelines, and they started to play.

And they started to win.

By the end of the first day of Nationals, MLP was undefeated, dispatching their competition with relative ease.

In winning their pool, they qualified to move directly on to the quarterfinals, where they played, and defeated, Haverford/Bryn Mawr on Sunday afternoon. All that stood between them and another shot at the title was the evening's semifinal against Carleton Eclipse, the team they'd beaten the year before to win the 2023 Championship.

The captains made a decision. The team had agreed that they'd come to Nationals to be competitive, and also to expose newer players to high levels of competition. "When I played my first competitive season as a sophomore, the captains put me on the field in the final for one point. It was playing that one point that gave me the confidence to take the field as a captain at Nationals this year. As captains we wanted to give all of our new players that same opportunity. And we knew that each and every one of them was ready for it," Sokolow said.

They had a rocky start, with Carleton up 4–1 within the first 15 minutes of the game. And then, whether it was some coaching magic from Swan Steve, or more likely the hard work, experience, wisdom, and the trust that the players had in each other, the tide began to turn. At halftime, the Pranksters were ahead of Eclipse by one point.

During the second half, the two teams traded points, until Middlebury was able to pull ahead by two. Playing in the final was once again in sight.

Until it wasn't. A missed throw, a dropped disc, an unlucky moment, and Carleton tied the game, then pulled ahead and beat the Pranksters, 15–13.

The Pranksters' streak had ended. But as the captains had wanted, every player on the team had been on the field, playing in the national tournament, in a stadium under the lights.

The Carleton and Middlebury men's teams, both of whom had been eliminated, falling short of their own title ambitions, ran onto the field and formed two lines together. They lifted their arms up and created a tunnel for both women's teams to run through. Despite not winning the championship this year, with their third-place finish, the Pranksters had beaten the odds.

"Everything that happened this season happened because this team kept on showing up and believing in what we could do together. I am so proud of us and so grateful to have been a part of it," Sokolow reflected. "Nothing could have made me prouder than watching when our open defensive line took the lead against Carelton in the semifinal. That's when I knew we had succeeded as captains. I can't wait to see where this program goes from here." M

Put a Pin in It

In a healthy democracy—where engaged debate must flourish—it's critical that we take the air out of inflammatory rhetoric

BY LAURIE PATTON

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPH NEIMANN

THIS PAST YEAR, THE TOP INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER education have been under intense scrutiny, and the debate about learning environments has been polarized and politicized. In my travels around the country on behalf of Middlebury, I am frequently asked about how we are addressing these issues here. As my friend and colleague Eboo Patel said in our recent exchange at a national panel on higher education and pluralism, most days in higher education are good days, where robust debate, the use of evidence, and respectful engagement are in full swing and on full local display. That is happily true at Middlebury. And, when the going has gotten tough, our large-scale initiative in conflict transformation has had a real impact in keeping our dialogues engaged and constructive.

As we continue to develop these leadership skills at Middlebury, it's crucial that all leaders in higher education focus on a larger concern: how our students envision and practice democracy in the future. The stakes have never been higher, especially in a society that remains polarized and where acrimony and caricature often overshadow engaged and committed debate. It's our responsibility to inspire and motivate our students to uphold the principles of democracy, and to imagine themselves as effective citizens.

To discuss these issues with other American leaders, I was a plenary panelist at a national forum celebrating Civic Learning Week, sponsored by George Washington University. I was there to discuss Middlebury's work in conflict transformation, the progress we have made over the past several years, and the idea of making democracy concrete for today's college students.

I was eager to report on all of it. While Middlebury has been a long-standing leader in voter registration and community service, the College has recently taken its commitment to the next level. Over the past two and a half years, our undergraduate and graduate students have been equipped with new tools for courageously engaging in public spaces through the analysis and practice of conflict transformation skills. This progress, evident in our residential life training, internships, courses of study, and professional placements, is not just about learning to navigate divergent points of view. It's about instilling democratic habits for the 21st century, empowering our students to shape the future of democracy, driving hope for the future of education, showing that change is possible, and inspiring others to follow suit.

I was also eager to listen to my fellow panelists—Republicans and Democrats alike. If the conversations at the conference were any indication of what we can do to build alliances across differences in 21st-century America, there was reason to hope.

The most significant event of the day was a conversation between Supreme Court Justices Amy Coney Barrett and Sonia Sotomayor. The event was moderated by Eric Liu, a lawyer and cofounder of Citizen University, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering a culture of responsible citizenship. Their conversation was a powerful demonstration of the value of patient, committed, and ongoing dialogue in bridging political differences. Despite their (at times deeply) divergent worldviews, the two justices have made a habit of appearing together in carefully chosen educational and civic contexts to discuss what matters to them.

During the afternoon session, the rules were clear: no discussion of any Supreme Court cases, no discussion of political issues. However, the panelists engaged in lively conversations about their childhood influences (strong families in both cases), their nonlinear journeys into the practice of law, and their strategies for building community. These personal and professional insights provided a unique perspective on the justices and their work.

Coney Barrett spoke about her childhood in New Orleans, where her family volunteered to set up a polling station in their garage when the local one was not able to open during one election season. Sotomayor spoke about her family and friends helping with Spanish translation in hospitals in Brooklyn and bringing patients home-cooked food. Both agreed that there was no "pathway to the Supreme Court" that someone could follow.

Most importantly for Civic Learning Week, both justices felt that we had lost our understanding of ourselves as a pluralistic society with a healthy ability to compromise. Both admired the way in which, even with a divided court that is constantly under fire, the justices still practiced listening before speaking and considering one another's arguments carefully. I was relieved to learn that the Supreme Court, in its current iteration, still respects the basics of conflict transformation and deliberative dialogue. My guess is that this was particularly difficult in the recent court decision about presidential immunity, where the disagreement was harsh and deep. As Eric Liu also pointed out, Coney Barrett and Sotomayor don't have the luxury of avoiding discomfort in their day jobs. All the more reason for the skills of civil disagreement.

What resonated most with me was the justices' response to a listener's question about how young people can bridge the gap in a polarized society. This question, close to my heart, received a powerful answer. Their ensuing conversation underscored the crucial role of place in fostering community and explored how young people can deepen their connection to their surroundings to address polarization. It's a reminder of the importance of finding common ground, a task that may seem daunting but is essential for fostering unity in a polarized society. As Sotomayor observed early in the program, citizenship is not just electoral politics or matters of governance; it's finding a solution to a problem that people are experiencing *nearby*.

Listening to the two Supreme Court justices, I was reminded of what Middlebury faculty and students near and far do best: teach and learn about the world while staying grounded in their local milieux. Our undergraduate students participating in our conflict transformation experiences in our Schools Abroad regularly report that their historical, cultural, and practical study of conflict brings renewed appreciation for the depth of local democracy in Vermont. Whether learning from women changemakers in postconflict Cameroon, analyzing the institutionalization of conflict and dialogue skills in the bureaucratic practices of the European Union, or understanding the battles over food distribution in Uruguay, our students regularly take those insights and apply them back at Middlebury—both the College and the town. As Conflict Transformation Fellow Agnes Roche '24 put it, "With this mindset of growth and a positive, productive view of conflict and hardship, I am a better learner, friend, partner, teammate, and citizen."

Our graduate students, too, find a deepened understanding of their local surroundings when they return from their work on conflicts abroad. Just ask Isabelle Boutaev, a nonproliferation and terrorism studies student and one of two student coordinators of the newly hatched Trialogue Initiative from Middlebury's Institute of International Studies at Monterey. The trialogue convenes leaders, academics, policymakers, and diplomats from the three major powers of the United States, China, and Russia to explore geopolitical themes of common international interest. In the spirit of deliberative dialogue, the aim is to build a common foundation and shared vocabulary for issues of current or potential conflict in the future. As Boutaev put it after convening the first trialogue in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, "It was a privilege to get to learn more about power dynamics and regional nuances impacting Central Asia and a unique opportunity to get to hear discussions of wider geopolitical realities and conflicts from the Russian, U.S., and Chinese perspectives. It definitely allowed me to come back to MIIS with a fresh perspective on class content."

What is more, our local college community partners are our coeducators, providing profoundly transformative experiences in citizenship for our students who stay and learn about conflict in Vermont or Monterey. When they work with our students, our partners repeatedly demonstrate that we are connected to each other through place. As citizens, we are often deeply joined by a common love of place, whatever our views. In fact, that love of place can motivate us to approach our differences more constructively.

The appearance of Justices Sotomayor and Coney Barrett together in March was a powerful reminder that in a democracy, when you can't agree on anything else, sometimes just being together in the same place matters.

Most of you are aware that in January, I will be leaving Middlebury to become president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. However, my husband and I will be making our primary home in Shoreham, inspired by a love for that valley between the Green and Adirondack Mountains, our Middlebury and Addison County communities. It really is true that sometimes just being together in the same place matters. M

On Memory

Whatever else is lost, time can be saved.

BY SAMANTHA HUBBARD SHANLEY '99

WHEN MY MOTHER ASKED ME to attend a gathering of her college friends last summer, I accepted her invitation gleefully. I was a divorced mother, aged 45, kid-free for the week and almost giddy about dropping in on a clutch of my mother's Northwestern sorority sisters. At Middlebury, I had made plenty of lifelong friends of my own, but I couldn't help myself. I imagined reaping attention from my female elders, who were undogged by the historical context of being my actual mothers. At my parents' home, on a quiet island in a lake, where my college girlfriends and I had once sat on the dock, knitting hats and stitching dreamcatchers, I pictured myself sequestered in the shingled cottage at twilight while the loons called to one another, bobbing among the waves.

My dad stayed on for the week as the one-man reunion support staff. When I arrived, he was waltzing along the pine kitchen floor with an apron cinched around his waist.

The Cabana Boy, I joked over text to my four siblings.

Dad made the cocktails, grilled the meat, washed the dishes. Everyone knew he was a saint. What was my role again, exactly? As a single mother, I wasn't used to sitting around, doing nothing. I also knew that I was standing in a slim, sweet, and precarious spot. My parents, aged 75 and 79, were admittedly more forgetful than ever. Two of Dad's younger brothers, twins, had recently died within five weeks of each other after years of cognitive decline. My 96-year-old great-aunt, for whom I coordinated care, was living with severe dementia. I wanted to enjoy my parents, exactly the way they were, as long as I could.

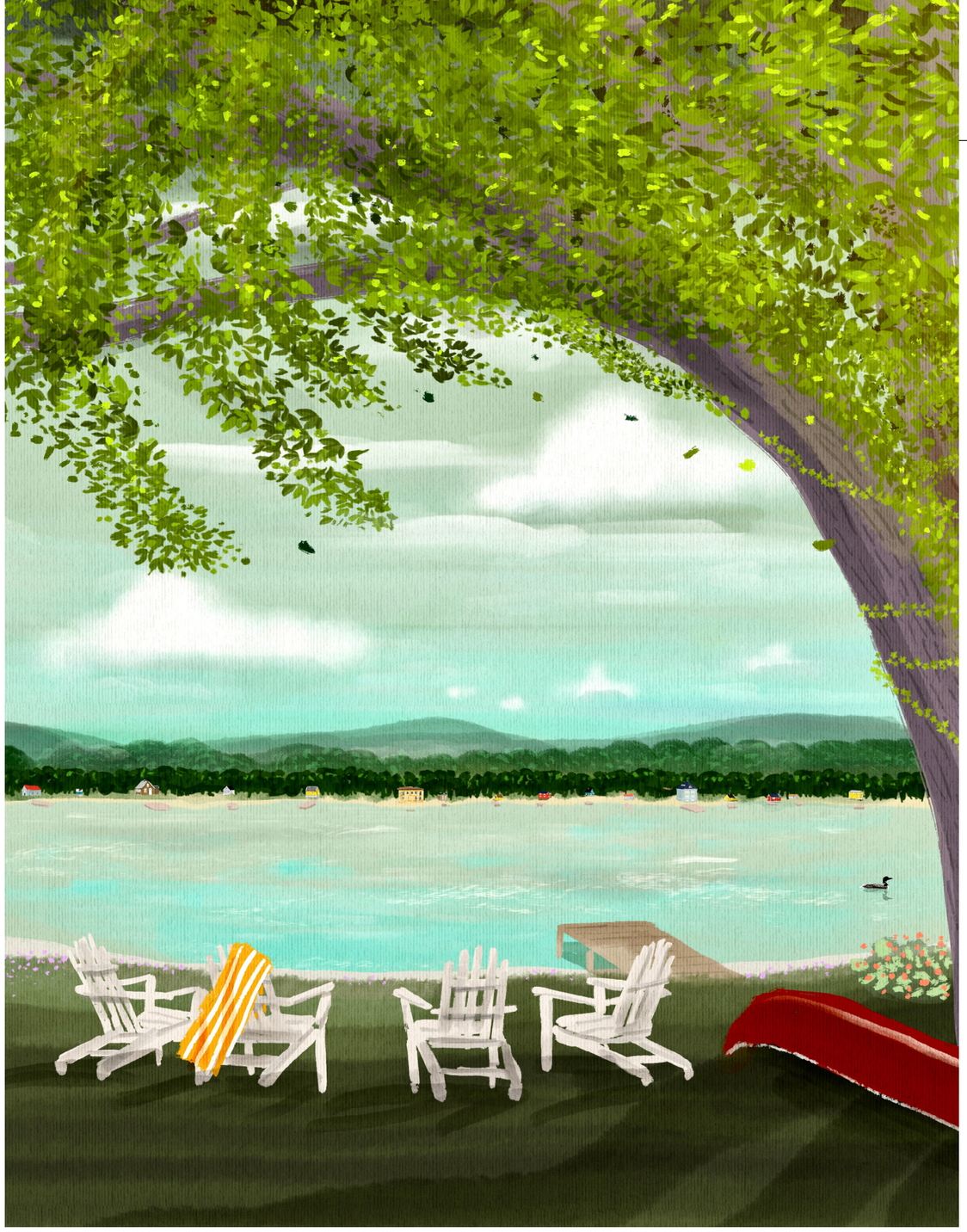
On a night when my mother and her friends, Sally, Jackie, Joan, and Mary Lou, had agreed to discuss Ann Patchett's latest collection of essays, we sat in front of the fireplace with no flames, for it was a hot and early summer. We marveled at the components of great nonfiction—characters, plot, insight, surprise.

My mother stood up and went to use the restroom. She returned, holding a soft, cream-colored bath towel. One hand was placed beneath the towel and the other on top, as if she were offering instructions on reheating a casserole.

"I have to tell you something," she began, sitting down, on top of the coffee table.

She had lost a diamond earring the summer before, she explained. As soon as she'd noticed it gone, she'd sent Dad looking for it, snorkeling around the dock, peering under granite boulders, and sweeping below the deck with a searchlight. At last, they'd given up hope.

"Just now, I went into the closet for a towel," she went on, a smile broadening across her face, "and lo and behold . . ."



She lifted the towel from its fold, so it hung from her arm. There was the diamond stud, still clutching onto a loose thread, like a glittering sea urchin. The earring, she supposed, had gotten caught while she was toweling off after a shower, nearly a year earlier.

"What would Ann Patchett say about this?" someone asked as the rest of us cheered for the diamond.

"She would tell us to find parallels to this moment and get to work," I explained, as if to my writing students.

For example, I told my mother's friends, when I was a child, my mother had a gorgeous sapphire bracelet that her father had given to her. When she lost it, she was heartbroken.

A few years later, I continued, after a family viewing of the White House Christmas trees in Washington, D.C., Dad was driving us home in the minivan. He took his hand off the wheel and felt around his back—something was poking at him beneath his parka. My mother reached over from the passenger seat, shoved her hand up inside the jacket, and pulled out her sapphire bracelet. She had always hidden her jewelry among the ski parkas in the second-floor closet—the bracelet had simply gone astray.

I finished telling the story and looked at my mother.

"I have no recollection of that," she said flatly.

Dad threw up his hands.

"Me neither!"

I wondered exactly when I'd become the genuine memory bank for my family.

"Wait a minute!" Sally reached for my mother. "You lost a ring in Charleston once!"

My mother turned toward her, aghast.

"You left jewelry at airport security, too," I reminded her.

"Hang on—" my mother started. "You're right." She grasped at these clues, but they fell away like mental scree, once lost, now tumbling again.

"I guess the pain of losing precious things is too great to bear," she explained in a sudden moment of clarity. "So, I just wipe it away completely to avoid feeling it again."

But I wondered whether it hurt more to lose the memories attached to those things than it did to lose the items themselves.

IN THE MORNING, WE SWAM OUT TO A gigantic water trampoline, which my parents had bought for their 14 grandchildren.

"How do you get up on that thing?" the women asked as we lounged in the water on swim noodles.

"The kids call this thing 'Waldo,'" I explained. Then, using a floating platform as a stepping stone, I launched myself up.

Sally came next, for she was the most adventurous, and then Jackie, the most determined. We lay there, momentarily beached and triumphant.

"What do you do once you get up here—just sit?" Sally asked.

I shrugged. The children always managed to jump around and have fun. Once, when Waldo broke free during a windstorm and floated across the lake, we'd set out looking for him in the pontoon boat, all 25 of us, whooping and hollering, wondering aloud where he was.

Someday, I thought, when the children had outgrown Waldo, that memory would remain.

WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR MY MOTHER'S friends to leave, Dad heaved a purple suitcase into the trunk. The women hovered around him, rearranging their bags.

"How many septuagenarians does it take to pack a rental car?" I asked, like a middle-aged brat.

All six of them laughed until Jackie turned to me.

"Listen, Missy," she said with a twinkle in her eye, "someday, you'll be doing the same thing, and we'll be looking down upon you and thinking, Oh, how cute. Just you wait!"

All at once, I imagined it: the six of them gone. I thought of my children, of what else we'd have lost by then, and how. God, I wasn't ready for that. Instead, I wanted to soften and savor, hold fast to the moments between now and then, preserve them in words of amber. That's what I did best, after all.

THE NEXT DAY, I TEXTED A GROUP CHAT OF MY Middlebury girlfriends.

"This is going to be us, someday," I wrote, imagining my mother's friends the night before, gathered on the deck at sunset, arms wrapped around one another, cocktails in hand.

Our 25th Reunion was coming up in June, and my daughter, my eldest child, would be starting at Middlebury a few months after that.

"I cannot believe you have a child starting college already!" one of my friends texted back once I told her my daughter had been accepted to the Class of 2028.

"How are we this old?" said another.

Of course, I can't believe we are here, either. What began as joyful news that my daughter had been accepted to Middlebury soon gave way to unexpected bouts of weeping.

"She's really leaving now," I told my friends. "She's actually going somewhere."

It is not a loss, exactly, but a stark reconfiguration.

As a young mother, I always wished for things to get easier, less exhausting. Over the years, I found that they simply changed. The only thing I can do is hold my daughter, my two sons, and everything else exactly the way they are now.

As my uncle, one of the twins, lay in his final days, suffering from aphasia along with cancer that riddled his organs, he opened his mouth, trying to speak.

"I love *everyone*," he said at last.

Now and then, I think of him, his mind and body nearly gone. Still, he managed to reveal a thousand stories wrapped up in that one, final delight. It reminds me that if time is the treasure I don't want to lose, then story is the craft to keep it near. This is an act of love in and of itself. Whatever we truly care for, whatever we cherish, our emotional currency, if you will, is difficult to articulate, invisible—wordless, even. But I can still try. M

But I wondered whether it hurt more to lose the memories attached to those things than it did to lose the items themselves.

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTINA GLIHA

Running Through Grief

In rapid succession, cancer took her mother and then struck her sister-in-law. Overcome with grief and anger and fear, a long-distance trail runner went in search of solace by tackling a seemingly impossible task: running the entirety of the Oregon section of the Pacific Crest Trail, all 460 miles of it.

BY EMILY HALNON '06.5

EXCERPTS FROM *TO THE GORGE: RUNNING, GRIEF, RESILIENCE & 460 MILES ON THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL*

Mile 30, *Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument*

When I started running from the California-Oregon border that morning, it was just a year and a half after my mother's diagnosis. She had gone from "fucking loving" every day of retirement to taking her last breath in just 13 months. The unthinkable—losing her within a year of her diagnosis—had become reality.

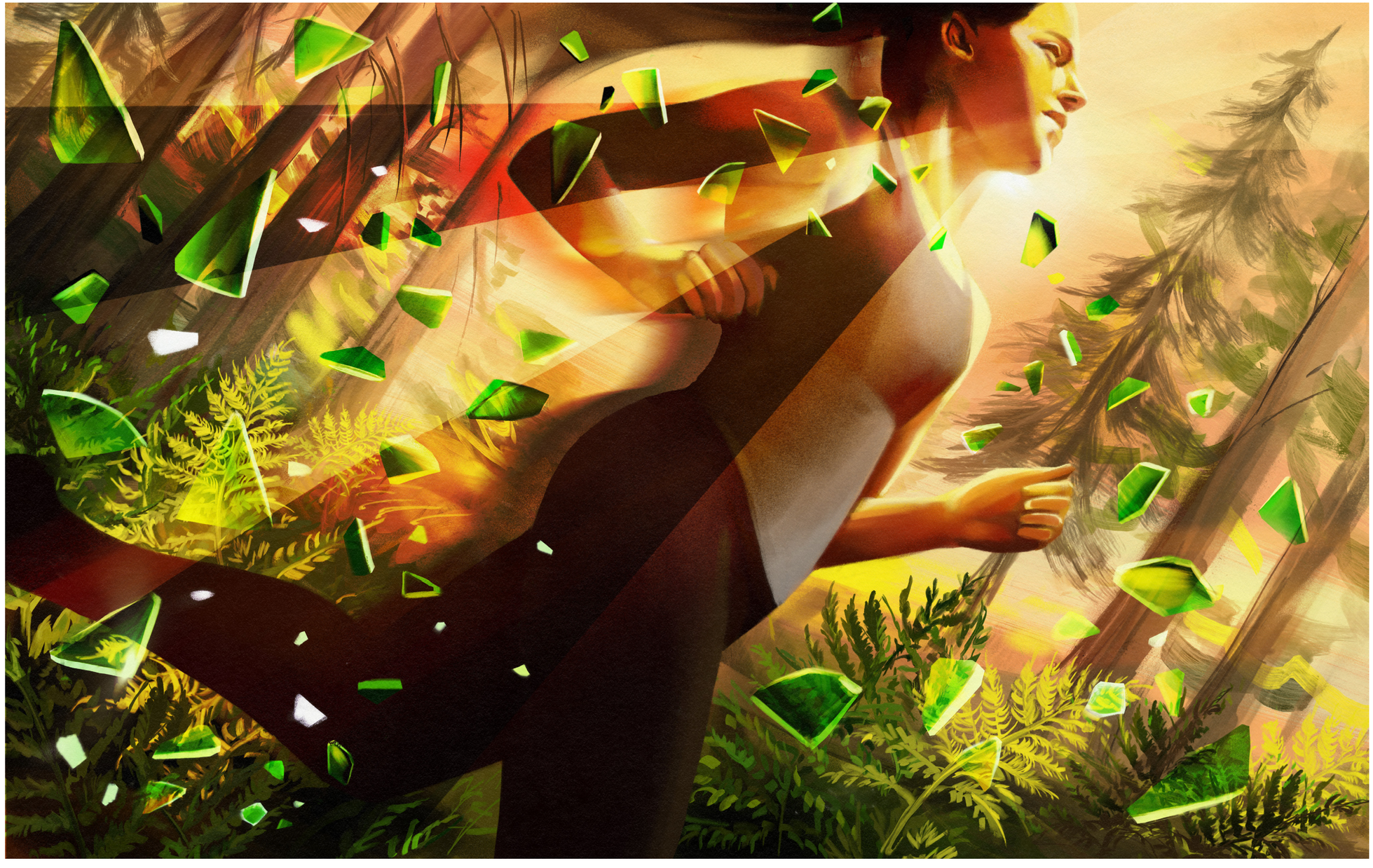


ILLUSTRATION BY DEENA SO'OTEH

My sister-in-law's cancer had metastasized and invaded new organs and parts of her body—her brain, her spine, her hip, her liver. I'd lost track of how many times she'd been rushed to the emergency room in the last handful of months. She couldn't walk unassisted and her scans showed nothing but an uncontrollable explosion of cancerous cells. Jess and I were born just months apart. I was 35 on the day I started running across the state of Oregon; she was 36, back in Vermont, where she couldn't take a step without help and her doctors couldn't stop the cancer from growing. There was no good reason at all that it was her and not me. There was no good reason at all that it was her, period.

I finally reach the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, where Pilot Rock rises from the dry hills. The sun is scorching above me. The browned grass makes the afternoon feel even hotter. The scent of burning soil hangs in the stale air. My throat is scratchy from the dust that I am kicking up as I run.

Water sources are scarce in the hills of the monument—where the streams have dried up during the heat of summer. I need to refill my water bladder soon since I've been draining it through the hottest hours of the day. I scour every turn in the trail for flowing water. But there is nothing but dry dirt everywhere I look. I still have another 30 miles to cover before I can stop for the day. I inhale a gulp of hot air and my throat itches with thirst.

My legs are getting heavier as they cover more miles. My quadriceps feel like someone has been playing drums on them with a pair of hammers.

I look down as I swing my arms in sync with my stride. A turquoise cord is wrapped around my wrist, threaded through a silver emblem etched with the words "Stay Brave." My mom wore it through every cancer treatment. And I'm going to wear it for every step of this run. A constant reminder of why I am out here.

My mother had a choice about how to live after she was diagnosed: she could let cancer define her life, feel nothing but fear and anxiety, or she could continue to live as she had always lived—in a brave and wholehearted way.

She chose to keep living through cancer. She decided that while cancer may have threatened the number of days she had left, she was still in control of how much she got out of the ones she did have. And if she was going to have fewer days, she wasn't going to let cancer shroud them all in darkness.

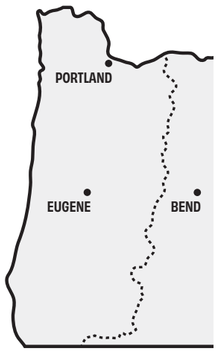
She still had plenty of bad days, of course. Hard days. Sad days. Days where she felt scared of cancer. Scared of dying. Scared of leaving us. But she also had beautiful days. Often at the same time. Braided together in a tangle of emotions.

She felt wonder as she looked up at a sky swirling with snowflakes—with the incisions from surgery still throbbing beneath her down jacket.

When I got back to Oregon after that first trip to Vermont to help my mom, I realized I had the same choice. I could let cancer define my life. I could succumb to my fears and sorrow and let them entomb me forever. I could sit at home and feel like a robin's egg at the edge of a spindly branch, afraid to take another breath.

Or I could be like my mother and see cancer as a directive to live while we can, as scared as we may be. Because it can blindside us at 34 or 65. Because the fragility of life is real.

I could show up on the California border, seven months after promising my mom I would run 460 miles for her. I could feel overwhelming fear about the idea of running across the entire state of Oregon. Of trying to do it faster than anyone before me. Feel aware of how much could go wrong. Aware of how hard it would be. Aware of how fragile and vulnerable I am. I could feel all of that and keep running to the Gorge.



The Oregon section of the Pacific Crest Trail spans 460 miles; Halnon set a speed record by traversing its length in fewer than eight days.

Mile 450, *Columbia River Gorge*

I'm picking my way down a steep hillside when it hits me. Every fiber of my being wants my mom. The urge to call her crashes into me like a tidal wave. The realization I can't is a sneakier wave that pulls me under water, flailing and gasping for air.

My mom was always my first call. Through every high and low. And while I'm running through the highest highs and the lowest lows, all I want is to talk to her.

The closer I get to the bridge, the more I long for my mother. There is nothing I want more on this earth than to share this moment with her. To tell her I'm going to do it. To tell her I'm going to do it for her. The yearning for her is alive with me on the trail, dragging me into the dark belly of the crater she left behind.

Tall ferns rise up around the trail. The last rays of sunlight spill through the trees and dance across the leafy tendrils of the ferns. I search for her in the soft beams of light. Grasping to hold onto any piece of her I can find.

I turn my gaze inward. I let myself fall deeper into the longing for my mom. When I decided to do this run, there was part of me that wondered if I was trying to outrun grief, if this run was an escape route from my pain, but in this moment, I know it has only given me a place to feel every ridge of it. It's been a way to move forward, but I haven't left my grief behind; it is right here with me.

Night descends over the Gorge. I grab my headlamp from my pack. I'll finish this run in the dark. M

EMILY HALNON COMPLETED HER RUN IN SEVEN DAYS, 19 HOURS, AND 23 MINUTES. IT IS THE FASTEST ANYONE HAS EVER RUN THE OREGON PACIFIC CREST TRAIL.

TO THE GORGE: RUNNING, GRIEF, RESILIENCE & 460 MILES ON THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL WAS PUBLISHED IN MAY. THESE TWO PASSAGES ARE EXCERPTED WITH PERMISSION.

CLASS ACTS

NOTES, HAPPENINGS, AND MISSIVES FROM YOUR FELLOW ALUMNI

Rainforest Rescue

An environmentalist helps protect animals of the Amazon in an unexpected way

As David Salisbury '93 traveled up the Juruá River in the Amazon rainforest of Peru, he noticed a submerged tree sticking out of the fast-moving water. But what he saw next made him stop: clinging to the piece of wood was a three-toed sloth. Salisbury was traveling with his Asháninka guide, Arlindo Ruíz Santos, to share with Arlindo's community maps that showed the impacts of climate change by comparing images of deforestation, temperature change, and evapotranspiration. But at that moment, everything else was forgotten at the sight of the poor little sloth that had apparently gotten swept downstream and managed to grab hold of the branch. Salisbury immediately jumped out of the boat, despite the fact that stingrays sometimes lurk in the sandy bottom of these upper Amazon rivers. The water was almost up to his chest by the time he lifted the sodden sloth off the log, tucked it in like a football, and waded to the riverbank. The sloth grasped Salisbury's forearm with its claws, holding on tight, and Salisbury carried it on his arm as he crossed the beach, pushed through tall grasses, and ventured into the floodplain forest, where he hoisted the little fellow onto a Cecropia tree, so it could climb and seek shelter. As a geographer and environmentalist, Salisbury works with Indigenous people to protect the flora and fauna of the Amazon rainforest and their habitats—but he didn't realize he would be taking such a hands-on approach to the effort!

PHOTOGRAPH BY RANDAL FORD

CLASS ACTS

Directors of the Middlebury Alumni Association (MAA)
Hannah Burnett '10, *President* • Mohan Renganathan '96, *Vice President* • David Ellis '09, *Past President*
Catherine Blizzard '20 • Steve Bouchard '76 • Michael Chorske '90 • Kate Bailey French '93
Jasmin Johnson '05 • Casey Mahoney '11, MANPTS '12 • Jason Robart '87 • Nia Robinson '19
Julisa Salas '10 • Beth Prasse Seeley '70 • Laura Woodward Tufts '03 • Beth Dorian Wyer '85

Ex Officio: Meg Storey Groves '85, Associate Vice President for Alumni and Parent Programs
Beth Connor, Director of Alumni and Parent Programs

1946

We are so sorry to report that **Joan "Cam" Campbell Shaw** passed away on January 23 at the age of 99. She was a wonderful correspondent for many years for the Class of 1946, always checking in with classmates, and full of good humor and wit. She was a pleasure to work with. We send our condolences to her family.

1947

It is that time of year when we class correspondents must gather class notes for the alumni magazine. I was slow in doing so, but relish hearing from classmates. I always contact **Tiffany Clark Nourse** first because she gives me more general news of the town and the College. Her own news is that she sold her house and now lives at Eastview, where **Alice Neef Perine** lives. Alice and Tiffany continue to play cribbage once a week and enjoy it.

After we ended our pleasant conversation, I continued down my list of classmates but without much success. After several unsuccessful calls someone finally answered the phone and I nearly jumped for joy. It was **Phil Briggs**! He speaks with a clear steady voice, so my deafness was no problem. He and Jean (Sloan) '49 now dwell permanently in Vermont. They are finding it very difficult to have cut their ties with Arizona. That is not surprising considering that they had split their time between the two states for 30 years. Jean has difficulty with breathing and now has to carry her oxygen with her full time. Does she complain? Emphatically no! And she and I had a fun time talking about family and experiences. She sees no point in looking to the dark side of life, so we laughed all the way through our conversation. She reminded me that New Englanders are strong characters and cannot be bothered with that dark side.

On my birthday last year I received a new, beautiful blue wheelchair so I can wheel around my house. My only problem is that it brakes forward, not backward like my original, and there are times when I confuse it. A few weeks later my stepson came from Connecticut to Massachusetts just to wash my windows. Now THAT is true love, and I was thrilled that I could see out them again!

I have tried to contact the following classmates for several months, with no luck. If any of you have news of them, will you please let me know? They are **Victor Springer**, **Virginia Lee Costello**, **Joseph Foley**, **Beverly Beach Grant**, and **Barbara Bates Lauterwasser.**

After a long hiatus it is good to see our class news in print once again, and I hope that it will inspire you to share your news with me for the next newsletter.

—Class Correspondent: Jeannette Atkins Louth (wmjalouth@comcast.net), 99 Depot Road West, West Harwich, MA 02671.

1948

If anyone in the Class of 1948 has news they would like to share, please send it to Sara Marshall at 2 Court Street, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753 or smarshal@middlebury.edu.

1949

Becky Quirk sent the sad news that her aunt, **Lois Quirk Racz**, died on September 8, 2023. She writes, "While living and working in New York City, Lois and her husband, Bill, spent many happy decades on Cape Cod in Brewster, Mass., and moved there permanently in 1970. They restored an old captain's house and for 40 summers ran the Juniper Hill Bed and Breakfast on Route 6A. Fascinating books in the gracious library, paths through an adjoining forest, homemade carrot bread, and lively conversations with their hosts drew guests (who became friends) back year after year to the gracious and welcoming property. Family members also enjoyed visits to Juniper Hill. In 1980, Lois and Bill were proud and engaged sponsors of a Vietnam refugee family and from the family's arrival at Logan Airport (two parents and four children), they worked tirelessly to make sure the family had housing and food, and educational, employment, and social opportunities. Lifelong friendships filled with mutual respect and love developed between the family and Lois and Bill. Lois also enjoyed presenting art history talks both on the Cape and other places after a grand tour of Western Europe with Bill invigorated her interest in art. After Bill died, Lois eventually moved to a retirement community in Charlton, Mass., then to one in Ithaca, N.Y., continuing with all her interests. She will be missed by all our family."

Jim Peck let us know that **Harry Fife** died on October 30, 2023. Harry grew up in Middlebury, where his father taught in the Economics Dept. at the College for 25 years. Harry attended the local graded school and the high school, where he lettered in baseball, basketball, and skiing three years, graduating in 1942. He then spent a year at Vermont Academy and was a star in baseball and skiing. In 1943, he was inducted into the Army Air Force and after basic training, was sent overseas with the 15th Air Force, 454th Bomb Group, 739th Squadron, where he flew six months on bombing missions in B-24 bombers from San Giovanni Air Field in Italy. He was the ball turret gunner, located in the turret under the plane, and in January 1945, his plane was forced down in Pecs, Hungary. Missing in action for 11 days, he and his crew were finally able to take off, return to their base, and resume missions. He returned home in June of 1945. He then enrolled at Middlebury, where he again lettered in baseball and skiing and served as the ski captain his last year. His teammates called him Captain Fearless for his prowess in the downhill event. He had a long career in education.

—Class Correspondents: Dixon Hemphill (dixonH999@gmail.com), 10910 Olm Dr., Fairfax Station, VA 22039; Rachel Adkins Platt (rplatt27@gmail.com), 1 Sinclair Dr., Apt. 131, Pittsford, NY 14534.

1950

REUNION CLASS

Anne Meyer Marshall writes, "Why has it taken me 20 years to get around to writing to Class of 1950 news? We read, love, and contribute to my husband Alec's 1951 class notes, so well-edited by wonderful Lee Webster McArthur. Well, maybe it's not too late.

"We Marshalls live too far out on Cape Cod in Massachusetts to consider going to Reunions now, but oh how we loved them when they were doable! We have such fabulous memories of our Middlebury days. Remember what a 'marriage bureau' Middlebury was said to be? In our women's class we had Marney and Ed, Peg and Bruce, Kathy and Irv, Loie and Bill, Marianne and Harry, Puss and Don, and surely many others. Our sociology professor challenged us all to have large families because he said college-educated people were not 'reproducing themselves.' We did our share with three children who each have two of their own! We keep active—at least informed—in town politics, church in Provincetown, library and neighborhood goings-on, golf for Alec and aerobics for me."

If you have any news you'd like to share, please send it to Sara Marshall, 2 Court Street, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to smarshal@middlebury.edu.

1951

Her children, Tim and Jennifer, sent the sad news that **Joan Macklaier Birkett** died on February 8. They sent several fun photos from the yearbook showing their mother's activities at Middlebury and said Joan had the chance to see them as well. One was of Joan in her ski team attire with a caption noting she was known as "Senior Speedster Joan Macklaier." She was also a captain of the team. Another photo showed Joan as part of the Winter Carnival "court" when **Tom Jacobs** was king and **Margy Packard** was queen. And they included the photo of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, which Joan was part of. They say, "Joan grew up in Montreal and lived an amazing, adventuresome life. She traveled far and wide: to India as a school volunteer, to the Arctic Circle when she worked for *Sesame Street,* as well as cycling through Europe and hiking in China along the Great Wall. She canoed some mighty rivers and climbed many a mountain, including reaching the upper slopes of Mount Everest. Joan cherished good people and adventure her whole life."

—Class Correspondent: Lee Webster McArthur (bobleemca@gmail.com), 240 Springfield Ave., Ste. I, Westfield, NJ 07090.

1952

Sally Baldwin Utiger, ever effervescent, made it back to Vermont's Burr and Burton last year for her class reunion—and was the oldest person there! She looked terrific! In other news, she reported that **Lee McGowan Allison** has been unwell, post-COVID, and we are concerned for her.

Mary Halsted Francoeur is hanging in happily at home with the help of two aides and she continues with her day trading. I also spoke to **Joyce Rohr** in Boulder, Colo., and she is managing on her own in a new apartment.

I'm sorry to say that **Priscilla Norman Forschler** passed away in October 2023. She was always enrolled in Alumni College held at Bread Loaf on Labor Day Weekend and since **Sally Utiger**, **Lee Allison**, and I were also often there, we could catch up easily with her. I also had the chance to catch up with her at our 70th Reunion, which we both attended. She will be greatly missed.

—Class Correspondent: Barbara Cummiskey Villet (villetb2@gmail.com), 208 Eagleville Rd., Shushan, NY 12873.

1953

Congratulations to the handful of hardy classmates who made it back to Middlebury for our 70th Reunion last June. The list includes **Nancy Hamilton Shepherd**, **Dot Gill Bramley, Pat HamiltonTodd**, **Ann McGinley Ross**, **Richard Brown**, and **Ann Golding Davis** (who we sadly learned died on October 18). Full disclosure about Pat Todd and Ann Ross: they weren't among those who actually made it *back*. They live in Middlebury.

All reports of the Reunion were highly favorable. Here are some of the highlights for Dot: "One is the fantastic view from the seventh floor of Bicentennial Hall, where the observatory is located. I was impressed by how well the new buildings blend with the old and the unbelievable athletic facilities. Downtown Middlebury has a few new features but otherwise looks the same.

At Convocation, the walk down the chapel aisle to the tapping of canes was an emotional experience." Sorry to have missed it.

Nancy notes that the number of our classmates still living appears to be about 90 ("that's 90 in their 90s"). Time to make plans for our 75th.

—Class Correspondent: Roger May (rogermay931@gmail.com), 3 Chadwell Pl., Morristown, NJ 07960.

1954

Correspondent **Julie Howard Parker** reports: Let's start off with a major milestone for the Class of 1954—our 70th Class Reunion! We hope you made it back for the special weekend.

Now a little class news: My class co-correspondent, **Tom Ryan**, was in intensive care for several days with a duodenal bleeding ulcer. He had no idea he had it, no symptoms. He had a close scrape with umpteen transfusions, but he is out and sounded strong on the phone. It has left him with painful gout, however. When we spoke, Tom and Emily had not ruled out attending our 70th.

In a warm phone call, Californian **Sally Green Risberg** told me about her work at her Spring Lake Village retirement community. She handles the rotating art for two corridors of the buildings. She loves it. It requires going out into Sonoma County to interview artists and work with a committee. Sally chooses the art and hangs the works. Then there are wine and cheese receptions where the artists talk and hope for sales. Most works sell in the $200 to $300 range (hardly enough to cover framing), but a few have sold at $1,000. With two artist daughters, I was interested to know what percentage Sally's retirement community takes, and it takes no commission at all from sales, in a generous gesture to help the artists. Sally expressed great enthusiasm over finding, visiting, and chatting with artists all over the county in her mission. For those of you who live in retirement homes, do you have similar art programs?

SPOT ILLUSTRATIONS BY DANIELE SIMONELLI

Our great friend and classmate, **Bill Skiff**, died in February of this year, leaving the city of Williston, Vt., in mourning, along with us, his classmates. **Lois Wanstall Kaufmann** sent his obituary, which stated that Bill was "a spreader of joy and connection wherever he was. Fortunate to have had a caring team of professionals at Birchwood Terrace in the last weeks of his life, he directed from his bed the delivery of several Valentine's flowers and made connections with staff in those short weeks enough to garner tears upon his passing." Some of us remember that Bill began a frog-jumping contest in Williston and even wrote a book about it. We will remember Bill as the best of Middlebury, the best of Vermont.

Let me end with what I have been doing for 12 years: writing *The Yoke, A Memoir of Love and Insight Healing My Mental Illness Journey.* It will not be easy to find a publisher, so I plan to give readings in our home, in libraries, and in bookstores, handing out a small "chap book" of 35 pages to encourage interest in the entire manuscript, once published. A reading can hardly cover more than the five-page prologue, but my experience is that listening and seeing the author read, and my explaining a little of the symbolism of the yoke (most young adults today haven't any idea what one is) motivates them to want to read more. I would love to come do a reading at any of your homes or retirement facilities. While writing this story I realized I framed the illness as a heroic inner journey challenge, rather than as a disorder relying totally upon today's outer aids of diagnosis and medications. But I had the great fortune of a beautiful partner, waiting patiently for me to overcome my fear of joining him in the yoke, pulling our life responsibilities together.

Our best to all of you in 2024, with challenges on all sides, politically, altruistically, environmentally, and technically, with artificial intelligence reminding us we human beings may not be forever at the top of evolutionary progress.

Correspondent **Tom Ryan** reports: We have received word of the loss of more classmates: **Dick Davenport**, **Bert Welling**, and **Pete Simonson**. **Dick** and I were both in the DU fraternity and good friends. He was on the golf team and an excellent golfer, and I was neither. (He also was a superb skier). He once talked me into the best round of golf I ever shot (82) on the Midd course. I visited briefly with him when we were both stationed in Germany. We spoke often over the years as he kept me informed about his golf game and doings on the Hudson River. **Bert** and I spoke often about the highs and lows of owning your own company and later the agony of downsizing, being forced to get rid of things you have used and depended upon for years. He was always gracious and willing to share his thoughts with me. I heard from **Pete Simonson**'s wife, Chris, who said, "I am very sad indeed to tell you that Peter passed on to greater adventures, on October 30, 2023. Our daughter Marlisa '96 and I were with him when he died peacefully at Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick, Maine. As active as he always had been, he was hobbled by Parkinson's disease at the end. He had such loyalty to Middlebury and enjoyed the class reunions we attended, I felt he would want his classmates to know of his farewell." Like probably half the males in our class, Pete did not graduate in 1954, leaving in his senior year to join the Air Force and avoid the draft. I knew him casually around the campus and knew that he flew that Aeronca Champ out of the Middlebury Airport and was president of the Flying Club. I got to know him better at our 40th Reunion where Pete and his daughter ran *everything!* He was a very pleasant, competent man who excelled at everything he did.

As for the rest of us, we are part of the 1 percent of the world population that lives into our 90s. Enjoy!

—Class Correspondents: Julie Howard Parker (julieparkerbonjour@gmail.com), 1929 Meadowbrook Rd., Altadena, CA 91001; Tom Ryan (trn@aol.com), 8580 Woodway Dr., Apt. 8-1104, Houston, TX 77063.

1955
REUNION CLASS

The state of Connecticut conferred on **Alan Gould** an official citation that read, "In Recognition of Your Lifetime of Extraordinary Dedication to Your Community." It went on to say, "As a veteran of the Army; an accomplished speech pathologist winning multiple awards and founding the Connecticut Speech Hearing Foundation; and a producer at the Wilton Playhouse, where you created performances accessible for the hearing impaired, you have always been committed to helping others. All those who have been fortunate enough to know you and work with you over the years have been blessed by your kindness, compassion, and leadership. As you celebrate 91 years of life, we wish you continued health, happiness, and pleasant memories spent with those you love." Best wishes to Alan and Pat in the days ahead!

Alli Lank says, "Our big news is that Connie and I have become great-grandparents and our daughter, Heather '84, is the grandmother!"

Jim Kennedy writes, "I have been busy biking, fishing, and enjoying the state of Colorado. No other news and haven't heard from other Midd classmates."

Jojo Kittell Corey reports, "Brattleboro was really fortunate and did not get hit with the awful flooding that other parts of Vermont did last summer. It was wet though! I was able to get to Glimmerglass in Cooperstown, N.Y., for three operas. I am lucky that my daughter, Lynn, also likes opera! One really great thing about going to Glimmerglass is my junior counselor from Middlebury is an usher there—Abby Kreh Gibson '53. It is wonderful to be able to see her every summer. Thank you for doing this, John!"

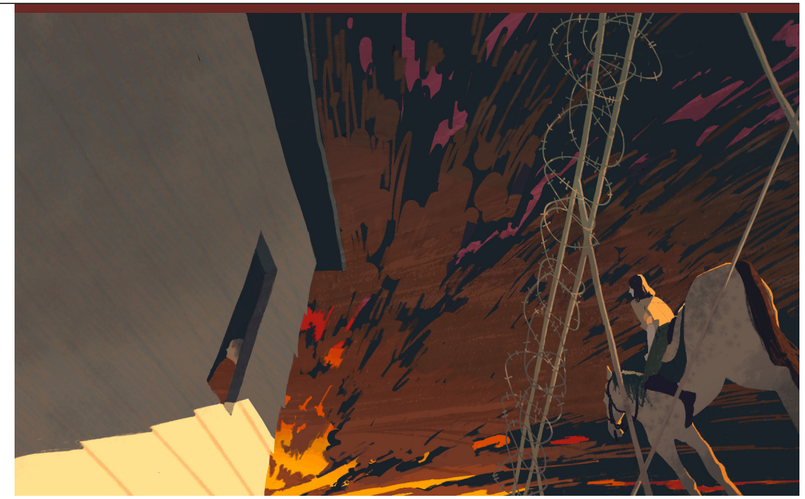
Scotty MacGregor Gillette writes, "The Smithsonian Native American Museum in Washington, D.C., is doing a one-person show of the works of D Y Begay, a Navajo weaver, in September. Peter and I bought one of her weavings years ago called 'Dakota Style,' which we are loaning to the exhibit, and I'm excited to go to the opening of the show on September 19. Sadly, I have had to give up tennis recently, but I am still rug hooking, playing bridge, and wearing a pedometer to make sure that I get in enough steps during the day."

Judd Zecher Colton says, "Today I bought myself a pink walker. No more skiing or tennis, but I still play nine holes of golf, walking (cart carries the clubs), about two to three times a week. My five kids seem to be okay. I'm very fond of four daughters-in-law and one son-in-law. My 10 grands are popping along and my four great -grandkids are a great comfort. I play a lot of mah-jongg. I get to Vermont every summer for three months plus. I had a little set-to with my cochlear hearing device—three months deaf, then surgery. But I lived through it and bought a wig."

Joan Tolley Bassett is living in a retirement village called Stonebridge at Montgomery in Skillman, N.J. After husband Alt '53 died in November 2020, and she lost her daughter, Bobbie Bassett Erdman, in April 2021, she found new friends, activities (bocce), and safety. She doesn't have to cook, clean, or change the linens. She has experienced some interesting travel and just became a great-grandmother! "I can still walk and talk, see and hear, and I'm thankful that it's never too late to enjoy life."

I want to thank **Sue Heyer Byers** for rounding up news from the women of the class. Hopefully more of you will send news for the next magazine issue!

I'm sorry to report that several classmates have passed away, including **David McKissock**, who died on June 2, 2023. I attended his service on September 22 in Rumson, N.J. His sons, Chris and Dave Jr., were there and Dave's wife, Denise, with their three sons. A sad day indeed, but Dave had a wonderful life with many friends and Diana (Parish) '56, his wife of 67-plus years!



A Mystery in Kansas, 1943

A noted documentarian has turned her talents to writing fiction

Elizabeth Fink Farnsworth '65 has released a new novella, *Last Light*.

After graduating from Middlebury with a history degree, Farnsworth traveled widely, building a career as a filmmaker, TV panelist, journalist, columnist, and foreign correspondent. She is also well known as former chief correspondent and principal substitute anchor of the *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* on PBS.

We featured her in the magazine's summer 2008 issue in "Out of Darkness" by Meghan Laslocky '89. The piece examined Farnsworth's years-long work on *The Judge and the General*, a critically acclaimed documentary about Chilean ex-dictator Augusto Pinochet and the man who prosecuted him for his war crimes. Then she collaborated with photographer Terry Evans on a project about the impact of fracking on the North Dakota prairie and its people. Their article "Dakota Is Everywhere" was published in the journal *Places* in 2013 and later turned into the exhibit *Fracked* at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Farnsworth appeared again in *Middlebury Magazine* in summer 2017 when we reviewed her memoir, *Train through Time*. And she returned to campus in 2021 to accept an Alumni Achievement Award.

Last Light is set in 1943 in Farnsworth's beloved home state of Kansas. She says the idea for the story came to her "nearly fully formed." One day, looking out her window in Berkeley, Calif., she had a vision of Kansas long ago: a young woman on horseback was looking through a barbed-wire fence at a one-story building, where a man stared back at her through a barred window. "I thought, I think these are the characters for my novel. I figured it had to be wartime or there wouldn't be a barred window. He looked injured."

After research at the Kansas Historical Society, Farnsworth developed these two characters: the man is a World War II POW being treated at a U.S. Army hospital near Topeka; the young woman is a native Kansan who, upon returning from a year in Vienna, gets hired to interpret for the German-speaking prisoners in the hospital. She questions the identity of the injured man, whose accent suggests he's not who he says he is. Farnsworth won't share any plot details —"It's a mystery; I can't tell you any more"—but she warns readers to be prepared for some graphic violence.

These days, Farnsworth brings her experience covering war, human rights violations, and injustice to her current role on the board of advisors of the Human Rights Center at the University of California Law School, Berkeley. Neither employed nor retired, she is enjoying the freedom to take on whatever projects speak to her.

"I can work as much as I want," she says. "It's pretty ideal."

ILLUSTRATION BY KATHERINE LAM

As for me, Liddy and I traveled to Arizona in the heat of last summer to meet the Swiss husband of granddaughter Emma, who is the daughter of our Jennifer '83. They were married two years ago in Switzerland. COVID prevented travel so this was simply a delayed celebration of their wedding. Another granddaughter, Lilly Baker, graduated from Severn School in Annapolis and began at Dartmouth. Liddy and I are both blessed with relatively good health. I turned 91 last October in Scotland, where Liddy and were traveling on a 12-person canal boat on the Caledonian Canal. Best wishes to all, John.

Editor's note: Sadly, we learned that **Bruce Byers** passed away on May 9. From the time he and **Sue** moved to Cornwall full time, they were active members of the community, doing much for the betterment of Addison County. In 2016, they were honored with the John and Bonnie McCardell Citizen's Awards and President Patton said the community was "privileged to have Bruce's selflessness and zest for life in our midst." Our condolences go to Sue and family. Bruce will be dearly missed.

—Class Correspondent: John M. Baker (bakerjmb8569@gmail.com), 76 Spooner Hill Rd., South Kent, CT 06785.

1956

Correspondent **Joan Mackinnon Houghton** reports: From Orleans, Mass., **Nanka Marvin Hall** talks about her involvement in a community choral group called the NoteAbles. The NoteAbles have a wide repertoire of vocal music—popular, jazz, spirituals, classical—and at Christmastime they do several concerts of Christmas music. The group consists primarily of men and women, middle-aged and older. Nanka suspects that at almost 90 years of age, she is probably the oldest; and singing still continues to bring her great joy. The NoteAbles sing in venues in the Orleans township and sometimes give as many as five concerts per month. I discovered a YouTube video of the NoteAbles giving a Christmas concert at the Federated Church in Orleans. It is delightful and does much to lift the spirit. I recommend tuning into it.

Correspondent **Simon Marchand** reports: If you had been watching Burlington's TV station, WCAX, on March 31, 2022, you would have been introduced to a super senior living in Lincoln, Vt. The super senior is **Mark Benz**. The recognition was provided for Mark's work in restoring and refurbishing a vital part of Lincoln's infrastructure—Burnham Hall.

Burnham Hall had served as a meeting hall and the town library until the building was flooded in June of 1998. Mark analyzed the restoration project and initiated a plan to restore the property. He then found the resources to do the necessary work and put his plan in motion. The result is that Burnham Hall is once again the home for meetings, eighth grade graduation, and the library.

In the WCAX interview, Mark stated the importance of helping and doing good things with and for people. The grateful citizens of Lincoln hung a plaque commemorating Mark's help in the restored Burnham Hall.

We are sorry to report that we learned **John Wheatley** died on January 7 and **Gail Knight Derick** died on March 23. I (**Joan**) roomed with Gail three out of four years at Middlebury and will miss my good friend.

—Class Correspondents: Joan Mackinnon Houghton (joanmhoughton@gmail.com), 18 Horizon Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850; Simon Marchand (lsimonmarchand@gmail.com), 29 Montadale Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540.

1957

Andrea Adams sent the sad news that her mother, **Patricia Langley Finn**, died on April 6, 2023. She earned her degree at Middlebury in fine arts and was a member of Delta Delta Delta. After Midd, she worked 10 years at MIT, where she met her husband, Ron Finn. Andrea writes, "After getting married, they moved to Santa Barbara, Calif., while Mom was eight months pregnant with me, squashed into their burgundy Hemi Cuda with two outraged cats. Mom was a founding member of PEP, Postpartum Education for Parents, and a dynamic advocate for infant care during a time when there was little help for new moms in this area. She was incredibly active at Mt. View, Goleta Valley Junior High, and Dos Pueblos High School in the PTA and supported education and the arts throughout her life. Books were a huge part of her life as well; she was an avid reader and editor for a local publisher, Para Publishing, for many years. My parents—until my dad's death in 2005—spent much of their lives going back and forth between California and Maine. Mom was an expert telemark skier, an aficionado of the woods and the beach, a marvelous pianist, an animal lover, an admirer of the history of New England, and a wonderful storyteller. She had a love of old movies, was a fabulous cook, and created a home full of art, science, sport, creativity, and laughter. She had a vast group of lifelong friends in Santa Barbara and always had a smile, a laugh, and a caring gesture for everyone. Her warm, kind, calm personality had a steadying influence on those who were lucky to have known her."

—Class Correspondent: Ida Mae Johnson (imj428@comcast.net), 104 Bentley Ave., Poultney, VT 05764-1182.

1958

I hope all my classmates are well. Please send me news of what you have been doing. Any good suggestions for books to read?

—Class Correspondent: Sue Daniell Phillips (dhp1012@bellsouth.net), 725 Ninth Ave., Apt. 1106, Seattle, WA 98104.

1959

Anne Martin Hartmann reports: After class correspondent **Millicent Fairhurst** broke her hip, she asked me to fill in for her so here are notes I gathered.

Ailene Kane Rogers died on May 18, 2023. Fellow '59ers **Fred Swan** and **Mary Lou Moore Pappas** and Fred's wife, Pat, attended a memorial service for Ailene at the Philbrick Farm Inn in Shelburne, N.H., on July 29. Ailene had a full and productive life. Mother of four children, she was active in environmental affairs all of her life, teaching and advocating for the environment in various ways.

There was a wonderful exhibit of Vermont art collected by Lyman Orton '63, owner of Vermont Country Store, on display at the Southern Vermont Arts Center last year. In conjunction with the exhibit, a book was published called *For the Love of Vermont: The Lyman Orton Collection*. This book was dedicated to our classmate, **Barbara Burch Melhado**, with the following dedication: "To Barbara Melhado of Dorset, Vermont, fellow art and antiques advisor, without whom I would not have started down this road of keeping Vermont art here and repatriating what we call 'escaped art' to its home state." Barbara died in 2016 and was an antiques and art expert.

Thanks to **Carolyn Parks Behr**, we know more about the remarkable career of **Helen Fitzgerald Cserr**, who died prematurely in 1994 of an untreatable brain tumor. She was on the faculty at Brown University and was initially denied tenure because of her gender. She was one of four plaintiffs in a landmark 1975 class action sex discrimination lawsuit. The case was settled out of court in favor of the plaintiffs and Helen went on to become a full professor at Brown.

Nancy Frame Sveden has organized an informal weekly Zoom meeting with several classmates. Among her many activities and interests, she hosts young baseball players during the summer in Brewster, Mass. These young men play baseball in the Cape Cod summer college league and a couple of them live with her during the summer. The league is 100 years old, and Nancy has hosted baseball players for the last seven years.

Granthia Lavery Preston reports that her husband, Harlan Fair, died in November 2022, after eight wonderful years together. Granthia now has 14 grandchildren. She had plans to come to Reunion this June with her new hip, done in November 2023. She also had plans to visit the country of Georgia last September.

Anne Goebel Barkman from Canada promised **Eleanor Vinke Sweeney** she would attend Reunion. In other news, she has embarked on learning ASL (American Sign Language) to help with the situation of being hard of hearing. She also has volunteered to mentor other people who are new to hearing aids.

Eleanor Sweeney helped found the Adirondack Artists Guild 25 years ago. She is a photographer and has an exhibit with an artist friend, focusing on the beauty of a large bog. The exhibit is titled "Oh for Peat's Sake." (Cute, eh?)

Pat and **Fred Swan** enjoyed a tour of Greek islands last September.

Dorrie Landry Kehoe helped start the West Concord Green Thumbs Club 25 years ago. Members plan and plant flowers in public gardens and in hanging baskets in the business center of Concord, Mass. They are celebrating their anniversary and growing membership this year.

Nancy McKnight Smith reports that one of her passions is walking, which was helpful during the pandemic. Recently she has taken up yoga and now line dancing. I (**Anne**) love line dancing also!

—Class Correspondents: Millicent Fairhurst (milfair@earthlink.net), 341 East 19th St, 10, New York, NY 10003; Anne Martin Hartmann (anne.hartmann01@gmail.com), 3 Cummings Rd., Unit 1038, Hanover, NH 03755); Andy Montgomery (joyandym@aol.com), 8910 Hilloway Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55347.

1960

REUNION CLASS

By the time you are reading this, it will be just about a year until our 65th Reunion! We hope you are already considering making plans to attend! Please think about being on the Reunion Committee—we could use a lot of help and many hands do make light work.

Our class correspondent emerita, **Jean Seeler-Gifford**, has returned to Middlebury after trying out life in Michigan for a while. Now well-settled in East Middlebury, Jean has resumed her past role of chief booster for the Midd field hockey team (which continues to have banner years).

John Howard and wife Lee are still in Corte Madera, Calif. "We enjoy seven offspring between us, all doing well in their chosen and very different lifestyles—nary a banker among them and I suspect not one of the men owns a suit! The grandchildren number eight, the greats two, and they also are all doing just fine. I play with my cars, undertake occasional woodworks, row my homebuilt Adirondack guideboat a bit, volunteer in town, and work to stay healthy."

Checking in from Istanbul, **Ted Buhl** reports that he still loves traveling and bird-watching.

For the past four years, **Deborah Wetmore** has been living in Middlebury and enjoying being able to walk everywhere. But she still misses the Mad River Valley and drives over there now and then.

Enjoying retirement, **Ralph Cobb** shares, "My wife, June, and I, after raising two kids in NYC's Connecticut suburbs, retired to Saratoga Springs, N.Y. We've been absorbed in sending a clutch of four grandsons off to college: from Brooklyn, a senior at Wake Forest and a freshman at Univ. of Richmond; from Grand Rapids, a junior at Wisconsin-Madison and a sophomore at Michigan State. Long life has its benefits."

News came from **Pat "Scout" Watrouse Messer**: "My travels are pretty much limited to Vermont and Maine. I have been very active in the beautiful senior center here in Marshfield, Mass., the envy of all surrounding towns. I do volunteer work as well as take several classes—both exercise and lectures in many different fields. I also take writing classes and find it extremely rewarding; not so much fiction as poetry and biography. I have a three-year-old great-granddaughter living an hour away, which is delightful! I'm still fortunate enough to be living the dream in the Red House, with daughter Suzy living on the property. Life is good—attentive family, good neighbors, and surrounded by conservation land and the scenic North River."

Jim Wright says, "After 60 years of teaching, coaching, and administering in private schools in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and Kansas, and founding a school in South Carolina, I have finally found my niche as an aging couch potato in Winchester, Va." He is very proud of daughter Leslie '84, who founded an organization (STRIDE) that helps Middlebury and Winooski kids participate in skiing—which they might not be able to afford. She also organizes the partnering of Midd and St. Michael's women with middle school girls.

Cilla and **Russ Leng** have moved out of their house of 43 years to an independent-living cottage at EastView, a small Middlebury retirement community. Russ says that they love the cheery cottage with its fine views and are enjoying the new friends that they have made. He continues his love of teaching, giving courses at EastView, to other town groups, and via Zoom to groups on Cape Cod. He also writes pieces, both serious and humorous, for the EastView "newspaper," and serves on their board of directors. Cilla is busy chairing the garden committee as well as volunteering with a variety of groups doing assignments in town.

Another Vermonter, **Dick Atkinson**, has news of the celebration of the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the Dissipated Eight! An October a cappella concert, also including the Mischords, filled the chapel with some 200 singers. Former members **Dave Hopkins**, **Breck Lardner**, and Bob Ray '59 were the opening trio. They sang by telephone a welcome to **Bob Hall,** who was also a member but unable to be present. **Sue Goodwin Hopkins** and **Sue Hibbert Lardner** were spectators and the Lardners' granddaughter is a member of the current Mischords.

Breck and **Sue Lardner** are excited about having a third generation at Middlebury. Check out the photo on page 59.

Sally Giguere Giglio and husband Dick sold their home of 43 years in Amherst, Mass., and spent the summer at Ocean Edge in Brewster, Mass., celebrating their 63rd anniversary there with both daughters and their families. Dick completed radiation therapy for cancer in time to enjoy swims, beach walks, and bicycling. Winters are spent in Naples, Fla., enjoying swims, book club, and Mexican Train games. Sally is an activist about climate change, gun control legislation, and political extremism, supporting worldwide laws to benefit the next generations. She also hopes we can finally have our postponed Midd '60 Reunion!

—Class Correspondents:
Bob Hall (rshallct@gmail.com),
53 Sunset Farm Rd.,
West Hartford, CT 06107;
Nancy Mumford Mulvey
(nandonmulv@gmail.com);
104 High Plain Rd., Andover, MA 01810.

1961

It feels wonderful to be returning to our regular print magazine after much tweaking of the new magazine format. I hope those of you who didn't send a class notes contribution will be sure to do it in the future. It's not necessary to have gone on a big trip because your classmates are interested in whatever you are doing.

Peter Spalding retired as a foreign service officer with the State Department more than 20 years ago. He met wife Carole when they both were serving in our embassy in New Delhi. They went on to serve in a dozen posts, mainly in Asia and Africa. But it is hard to stop former diplomats from staying put. Peter and Carole have lived in Washington, D.C., since his retirement but manage to take a trip overseas almost every year.

We all have been saddened by news of the passing of several classmates. Even though we know it's "that time of life," such news does not sit well. **Carol Nicholson Fryberger** wrote that she was saddened to learn of the passing of her roommate for all four years, **Doris Herbst**. Carol said that "in addition to being a truly lovely and kind person, Doris was always neatly dressed, and calm and organized, traits I admired. She was an active and well-liked member of our class."

Hillary Tidwell sent the sad news that her father, **William "Hal" Hyatt**, died last November. He loved gathering with his family and playing with his golden retrievers!

Lee Kaufman was also very saddened to read about the loss of classmates. **Jack McEwan** had been a roommate of his at KDR. He also noted the passing of **Sally Tingle Southard**, whose husband Jim '59 was an awesome skier for Midd. Lee recalled that after their Midd years, Jim, Sally, Lee, and his wife along with several classmates met and skied together in various resorts. Lee and his wife keep active, spending winters in Park City, Utah. He races in USSA Masters races but doesn't travel as much as he used to. He's too busy keeping track of the next generation. He now has one granddaughter at Cornell, one grandson at Burke Ski Academy in Burke, Vt., one granddaughter at Rowmark Ski Academy in Salt Lake, a grandson on the Park City ski team, and a grandson on the Park City biathlon team. Although skiing remains a dominant factor for them, summer, spring, and fall they are still in Montana, fly-fishing a lot, swinging a golf club badly, enjoying a boat on Flathead Lake, and come fall, Lee with a 20-gauge in hand follows his beloved Labrador about. Lee hopes to get back to Midd one of these days and see classmates.

John Kerney continues to dodge hurricanes in his "home port" of beautiful Vero Beach, Fla., by circling the globe on his "cruise of the year" itinerary. He had a delightful trip to the Balkans last September. John hopes to be on another SilverSea's ship in the sunny South Pacific (Australia and New Zealand); to catch up with the 2024 winter edition of *Midd* magazine; and plan his 2025 venture at sea.

Ann Jenkyns Phelps writes, "While I haven't contributed to our class notes for a long time, I definitely keep up with them. I am now living full time in Plymouth, Mass., after moving from central New York 10 years ago to raise my granddaughter as my daughter works full time in the restaurant business. Samantha was then entering kindergarten but is now 16 and in high school being recruited by colleges as a lacrosse goalie." Ann continues to cofacilitate the Plymouth-area group of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, about 75 percent of whom are doing so because of parental addiction or death. And until recently she was a longtime reader for Dell, Truman, and John Ben Snow Foundations' scholarships.

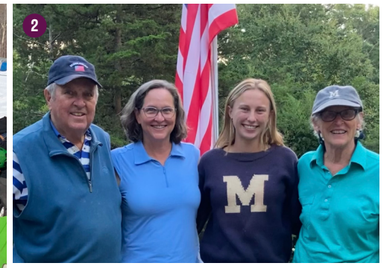
As reported in the last issue, **John** and Koko Hart '63 **Harris** did a 30-day cruise around South America with their first passage through the Panama Canal. In June 2023 they supported their son in the Great Race, a road rally from St. Augustine, Fla., to Colorado Springs. They drove a truck and trailer over 6,000 miles. They got back in time for Koko's 60th Reunion, staying at the Waybury Inn with several KDRs.

Our lives have taken us many places through travel and other adventures. Let us know where life has taken you!

—Class Correspondent:
Janet S. Reed (jsreed2800@me.com), 933 W. Foster Ave., #1145, Chicago, IL 60640.

1962

Correspondent **Judy Bosworth Roësset** sent news about two different events she enjoyed in 2023. "In March we had a family reunion in Costa Rica and added **Nora Wright** and Al '63 and **Susie Stevens McKibben** to the mix. (See the photo on page 59.) The place we arranged for the week, complete with meals, was idyllic, pretty much in the middle of nowhere and perfect once one finally arrives—but the travel plans for all except the Miami contingent were complicated and messy; they, however, got the return problems with an overnine-hour delay out of San Jose airport. Costa Rica was a wonderful place for a family reunion and our oldest grandson proposed to his longtime partner while we were there—amazingly on the very evening a secretly arranged fireworks display was on tap. Totally circumstantial serendipity. Then, at the end of August, after a quick stay with **Nora Wright**, which included a B&B night in



1 Friends from the Class of 1988 had a girls' ski weekend reunion last winter at Bromley Mountain in Vermont: Pam Frederick, Heather Nelson Kent, Nancy Caulfield, and Julie Chapin Bassi.

2 The Lardner family is so excited to have a third generation member attending Midd: Breck Lardner '60, Gretchen Lardner Jaeckel '87, Anna Lardner '26 (wearing her grandfather's varsity letter sweater from his college days), and Susan Hibbert Lardner '60.

3 Several friends joined Judy Bosworth Roësset '62 in Costa Rica when her family met there for a reunion: Judy, Nora Wright '62, Susie Stevens McKibben '62, and Al McKibben '63.

4 Last April Jim LaChance '69 visited Roger Cummings '69 in Truro, Mass., on Cape Cod. They visited Wellfleet Museum and ran into the vice president, Eric Winslow '69: Eric, Jim, Roger.

5 In April several 1968 classmates met up in New York City at the home of Susan Caughman: Claudette Fourchtein Dunk, Penny Clark Watt, Susan, (second row) Marilyn Simon Margon, Peter Knobler, and Mike Watt.

6 Last March, friends from the Class of 1968 gathered at the home of David '66 and Nancy Brooks Richardson '68 for a mini-reunion. Those who attended included Nancy, Nordis Glasoe, Rebecca Fitts Rylander, Linda Burley, (second row) Bob Friedman, Donna Friedman (Midd spouse), David, Sheila Deming Brush, Dick Brush, (third row) Rick Callahan and Jim Barnes.

CLASS ACTS

Manchester, Vt., where we had a drink with **Pete** and Janie Bachelder '63 **Johnson** and supper at Al and **Susie McKibben**'s house, there was another annual Alumni College with the usual bunch of 1955 grads getting together and nary another member of our 1962 class. You are missing a great opportunity to meet a very interesting bunch of Midd alums, from youngish to oldish (Class of 1951!), sharing one of the five offered courses taught by enthusiastic professors—including former President McCardell, who gave a class on Reconstruction (with the movie *Glory* shown one night for any and all to attend after supper, which I did). Meals with fellow class members or those in the other classes are filled with interesting conversations, making one wish there were more time just to chat with all and sundry. There is a cocktail hour with nibbles out on the lawn, weather permitting, and then meals indoors of course. A few years ago, there was a long-white bearded bagpiper seated on an Adirondack chair (of which there are many as well as rocking chairs on the porches) playing happily all alone in the middle of the lawn. This past year, when we headed out from supper up to the Barn for the Saturday evening class skit presentations, he was outside the Little Theater and piped us up the slope to the Barn. On evening one, we shared a bench with a delightful young couple, Class of 1995 from the Middlebury Institute in Monterey, on their first visit to Alumni College—they had already decided to attend the next year. Why don't some of the rest of you?"

Chuck Gately sent memories of **Steve Holtz**, who died last November. "**Nick Calise**, **Vic Micati**, and I were fraternity brothers with Steve at Psi Kappa Tau. Steve was a member of the Dissipated 8. He continued his love of singing after college by joining barber shop quartets and community choirs. Steve and wife Jane (Bowditch) '64 welcomed into their home Nam and Tae, Vietnamese orphans who flourished as their children. All and all, Steve was a very good person."

Susie McKibben adds, "What a great guy Steve was. I remember having some nice chats with him at one of our past Reunions, and I remember Jane from skating. And it is wonderful to hear, from his obituary, about his love of cats and MGs (we have one of those old MGs)."

Ken Parker sent this sad news: "**Placido 'Frank' Pappalardo** passed away last October after many years of struggle with kidney disease. Frank was my roommate for many years and had a bright and open personality. After serving in the U.S. Army, he went into his father's law practice and eventually became a successful district attorney in Rochester, N.Y. We kept in touch over the years, both via phone conversations on a regular basis and fishing trips to Canada."

Correspondent **Liza Dunphy Fischer** reports: **Bill Dalsimer** bought a condo in San Miguel, Mexico, where, he says, "Life is great. Wonderful friends through my ever-growing UU fellowship, great weather, exercise, food, culture, and a never-ending offering of music, theater, lectures, etc." He and his partner, Janet, spend most of the year there, returning for a few months to Southampton, N.Y., in the summer. He spent three weeks in southern Spain and saw **Jim Warburton** for a few days. "Jim seems to be in great shape. He walks around hilly Gaucin, a small village of 1,600 souls nestled in the hills of Andalusia overlooking the Mediterranean and the shores of North Africa. In the village it is apparent that everyone knows Jim and he knows everyone!"

For myself, **Liza**, I am happy to have the pandemic over and engage in activities in person and be able to travel. On a Road Scholar trip, I met a wonderful man. We share much in common and are planning many trips, including one to New Zealand.

—Class Correspondents: Judy Bosworth Roësset (jbozroesset@aol.com), 8809 Mariscal Canyon Dr., Austin, TX 78759; Liza Dunphy Fischer (betsy@brentopalmer.com), 611 Oakland Ave., Iowa City, IA 52240.

1963

Correspondent **Chris White** reports: Since 2020, COVID-19 disruptions have hampered maintaining class cohesion via these class notes. **Janie Bachelder Johnson**, **Bruce Bailey**, **Larry Ring**, and I have made efforts over the years. Then last year, with the help of Alyssa Sinclair '94 of the Alumni Office, who spearheaded a team of volunteers to plan and execute, we had a wonderful 60th Reunion celebration in June with over 30 attendees. During Convocation in the chapel, we were "upstaged" by two perky ladies representing the 70th Reunion, who related that during the "war years" men on campus were scarce, but Midd men in the Navy ROTC program proved adept at distributing "carefully crafted BS!" This resulted in much audience laughter, especially from President Laurie Patton! It truly lightened a very serious event.

I mention this because since last June, I have conversed with numerous classmates and note universal themes in our conversations: aging, constant change, chaos, deaths/rebirths, downsizing, and an acceleration of the news cycle. It strikes me that one must find humor and joy NOW in our midst. Please take time to reach out to classmates. Keep positive energy flowing. Curiosity leads to engagement, which brings forth discoveries.

You might start with connecting to some of these folks below, or a long-lost roommate, fellow major, or perhaps someone in an area you may be visiting soon (the reason why I place home addresses next to names). These are some of my most recent random cold calls and attempts: **Janet Brevoort Allen-Spencer** (Huntington Station, N.Y.), **Nancy Sise Auseklis** (Sun Valley, Idaho), **Susan Washburn Buckley** (NYC, N.Y.), **Liam English** (Middlebury, Vt.), **Julie Nelson Firestone** (Scottsdale, Ariz.), **David Hanscom** (Park City, Utah), **Koko Hart Harris** (So. Bristol, Maine), **David Heacock** (Gloversville, N.Y.), **Betty Cooper Kane** (Washington, D.C.), **Al McKibben** (No. Ferrisburgh, Vt.), **Scott Low** (Palm Beach, Fla.), **Mary Robson** (Roslindale, Mass., but moving to Seattle), **John Simpson** (Augusta, Maine), and **John Weekes** (Buhl, Idaho).

Larry Ring sent this memorial: We lost the warmest, biggest smile last September with **Jim McKeown**'s passing. He was always interested in you and ready for conversation, especially if it was about Middlebury, and hockey in particular. The hockey red light indicating a goal will always be on for this special friend of us all.

Chris adds this about **Ed Hixson**, who died in February 2023. "At Middlebury he was a competitive teammate of the cross-country ski team and joined in Mountain Club activities. After UVM Medical School, he focused on mountain sports as an orthopedic surgeon simultaneously in three Adirondack area hospitals and brought the practice of sports medicine to those hospitals. He provided medical advice to the U.S. Nordic Ski Team and was the vice-chair for medical services at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, N.Y., during the time of the 1980 Olympics. He made numerous high altitude ascents in Tibet and Nepal (three times on Mt. Everest), and in Peru and Pakistan. With a love of canoeing and kayaking, he was part of the first kayak descent in Bhutan. A remarkable classmate!"

—Class Correspondents: Bruce Bailey (brucevbailey@gmail.com), 16234 41st Ave. NE, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155-6728; Janie Bachelder Johnson (petesgirl1222@gmail.com), PO Box 124, Danby, VT 05739; Larry Ring (lwrsbr@msn.com), 7248 N. Cathedral Rock Rd., Tucson, AZ 85718-1380; Christopher J. White (crnbrycst@gmail.com), 25 Village Inn Rd., Apt. 102, Bar Harbor, ME 04609.

1964

Correspondent **Dori Ells Jurgenson** reports: I heard from **Leigh Marr Knox** in Oregon last spring with news about escaping a forest fire, enduring and recovering from a bad fall, and getting COVID in late 2022. But then last February she was able to take a planned trip to Egypt and found it fascinating. She says, "Seeing a mummy sure puts life in perspective!"

We remember that **Joan Smith** moved from Maine to California several years ago to be near son Eric. She then managed Tam House, affordable communal housing for seniors, for three years but has since retired. She loves being in a Zoom "gateless writing" group at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesdays (others are in Maine and Vermont) and is hoping to find a venue for publishing her essays.

John Vecchiolla says he is still working. He sent the sad news that **Larry Dickie** died in September 2023.

Bob Seeley adds, "Not good news, but I learned that **Paul Butler** died suddenly in September 2023. After a career in the Army (including service in Vietnam and teaching at West Point), he started an international company that supplies security software to power plants and similar facilities. He and wife Nadia retired to Springfield, Vt., a few years ago. He was an avid runner and participated in triathlons around the world. He leaves four children plus grandchildren, many of whom are into winter sports."

We send condolences to **Louise Gulick Van Winkle** on the loss of her husband Davis '63 in March 2023. She says, "I have been resetting my life a bit. I'm still at Camp Wohelo in the summer but I'm beginning to spend time at the Meadows in Scarborough, Maine. Lots of activities there, and people to enjoy them with." Her whole family was expecting to spend last Thanksgiving in Sedona, Ariz.—nine strong. She was hoping to catch up with everyone at Reunion.

Then the headline: **Roger Hendricks Simon** Becomes a Grandfather! And Had Four Feature Films Out in 2023! (Note the order!) Roger writes, "Of course my biggest production so far is my new one-year-old grandson, Jules! So much fun and enjoyment! I'm excited that my two critically acclaimed feature films—Colin Wilson's *Linoleum* and Daniel Keith's *Love in Kilnerry*—are both now on Amazon Prime and other streaming networks as well as screening overseas! Both films enjoyed extended runs in NYC, in Los Angeles, and at selected theaters nationwide." He's featured in *Linoleum* opposite comedian Jim Gaffigan, who plays his son. Roger also has two more films that were on the 2023 festival circuit—his son Dan's *Another Year Together*, winner of two Best Feature awards, and *Can't Let It Go,* in which he is featured opposite Mario Cantone. Lastly, he costars on *Noir Playhouse,* an episodic film series designed for social media.

Pam Nottage Mueller reports that last fall she joined the ranks of those with replaced body parts, getting a new right hip to take over from her original version. "Before my surgery we crammed in trips to undiscovered but totally enchanting Madeira (with our oldest daughter), Chincoteague (with our horse-loving 10-year-old granddaughter), and the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, where we were enamored by the spectacular Arctic-glistening glaciers and sea ice, majestic polar bears, and walruses—a trip of a lifetime."

Correspondent **Bob Baskin** reports: Given all the trouble going on in the world and America presently, I thought this correspondent should write about something more positive. So, let me tell you about what I did last fall—I went to my 63rd high school reunion in Middletown, Conn. It was the 63rd thanks to the disaster of COVID in 2020. Just another example of COVID's terrible ramifications. Anyway, it was very meaningful to reunite with old friends and share many happy memories from our time in high school, which for me was a great experience. As with Middlebury reunions, I've only missed one or two of these five-year events. But that wasn't all. Soon after, my buddy, **Eric "Bear" Fuller**, his extraordinary wife, Linda, and I and my wife, Chris, had a great lunch and long discussion with **Wally Weld** and his equally delightful wife, Kathy. I really didn't know Wally at Middlebury other than being fascinated watching him play tennis on the courts behind Hepburn. BTW, he still plays two or three times a week. We should all be as hearty. Earlier last year I did make a connection with Wally when I was seeking information about the untimely loss of **Dan Brown**, whom Wally new well. In a series of telephone conversations, we agreed that at some time in the near future we really should get together. So, we did. But wait, there's even more. As I was driving to my high school reunion, **John Vecchiolla** called out of the blue to talk about our Middlebury Reunion. Going to our Reunions has always offered the opportunity to share memories, renew relationships, make new friends, remember lost classmates, and update ourselves on all the innovations that have taken place at Middlebury since we were there. I hope you were able to make it to Middlebury for our 60th!

—Class Correspondents: Bob Baskin (robertbaskin@msn.com), 89 Joshua Trail, Madison, CT 06443; Dori Ells Jurgenson (dorothea.jurgenson@gmail.com), 106 Orchard Circle, Denver, IA 50622.

1965

REUNION CLASS

"Will you come back? Yes, we'll come back…" YES! It is that time again. Put next June on your calendar for 2025, when we will celebrate 60 years as

Long Overdue

Her experience as a patient drives a woman to improve some of medicine's most common tools

Fahti Khosrowshahi '95 is a woman on a mission to modernize the most basic tool of women's health care: the speculum.

The cold, clanking metal speculum that is ubiquitous to pelvic exams was invented more than 180 years ago.

"To think it is okay to still use a product that was developed that long ago is crazy," Khosrowshahi says. When she and her husband decided to start a family, they encountered fertility challenges. They visited doctors and clinics around the country and endured seven rounds of in vitro fertilization to have their two daughters. The endless rounds of pelvic examinations made her never want to hear the metallic clunk of a speculum again: "It opened my eyes to women's health, and what it meant to be a patient. I did some research on the speculum to see why no one had developed anything better." In 2017, she decided to leave her 15-year career as a management consultant in the biopharmaceutical field and founded Ceek Women's Health.

Khosrowshahi did extensive market research and determined that the speculum is almost universally loathed by women. So she and a team of female designers created the Nella NuSpec, a reusable speculum made from medical-grade polymer that is much smaller and more comfortable than a metal speculum. It requires only one hand to operate and provides much greater visibility to healthcare providers—and it's also quiet.

"Reception has been great," she says. "The fact that women have to go through these exams for the rest of their lives means that the procedure, and the equipment that's used in the procedure, needs to be better for them."

The Nella NuSpec garnered the attention of the editors of *Time* magazine, who named it one of the best inventions of 2020. It's been used on more than 1 million patients and is in a number of leading academic institutions on both the East and West Coasts. Their product line has expanded to the Nella Kind, a single-use version of the NuSpec, which can reduce the time between patients; the VuSleeve, a tissue-retraction sleeve that improves provider access to a patient's cervix; and the VuLight, a small portable light that attaches to any kind of speculum. "Clinicians need to see what they're doing. And when they can see what they're doing, they can do procedures faster, which is ultimately more comfortable for the patient."

Khosrowshahi is thrilled at Ceek's success. "My mission is simple," she says. "It's to modernize these tools and the care women receive by giving clinicians the tools they need and women the care they need to make their exams better."

Middlebury alumni. **Norm** and **Bonnie Trompeter Lowe** have agreed to be our Reunion chairs for our 60th. Our initial plans are sketchy as of this writing, but we have already begun and hope that many of you will step forward to help out and to attend.

Recently a lovely tribute appeared in the *Addison Independent*, the local Middlebury paper, on our classmate, the late **Paul Witteman**. He was an editor/writer for *Sports Illustrated* and their partner publication, *Time,* for nearly 30 years. The tribute was written by Karl Lindholm '67. Your Vermont correspondent can send you a link to the article if you are interested.

This past winter, many of the paintings of **Jim Murdoch**'s late wife, Alice, adorned the walls of a well-known Vermont French restaurant; this was a beautiful tribute to a talented artist.

Our '65 Scholarship Fund is doing very well, and we have received gratitude letters from our two student recipients. One, a senior from Brooklyn, N.Y., had nothing but praise for her Russian professor. "He infected us with his love and admiration of Russian culture. As a result, I have finished many of Dostoyevsky's novels and hope to continue my journey with Russian literature." When asked who inspires her the most at the College, she cited, "The staff—the custodial team, the recycling workers, and electricians that keep Middlebury operational. I don't think they get enough appreciation for the work that they do." Our other recipient is a junior double major in education studies and Spanish from Houston, Texas. After Midd, "I would like to begin my bilingual teaching career with an advanced degree in bilingual education. After I've settled in this career, I'd like to look for other opportunities, possibly opening a restaurant business of my own."

Sadly, we have to report the loss of three classmates. **Robert "Bo" Hall** passed away in February of this year. His life was reflected upon by classmate and fraternity brother **Neal Boudette**, who commented, "Bo was a caring person who reached out to people. He loved his family and enjoyed their annual summer get-together at the Cape. He enjoyed fishing and skiing. In our later years we would ski annually, catching up on each other's lives. The thing I remember most about Bo is his unique names and expressions: Bo-isms."

In March 2023 we lost **Charles "Jolly" Rogers** to suddenly diagnosed pancreatic cancer. Following graduation, Jolly returned to Proctor, Vt., where he worked nearly 50 years for New England Telephone Company. Married to Roz and the father of four much-loved children, Jolly was a summer regular at the family-owned resort on Lake Bomoseen.

We also lost **John Blodgett** in May 2023. After growing up in Stowe and graduating from Middlebury, John lived in Montpelier where he worked with the Vermont State Department of Transportation; he designed the computer system that monitored and organized traffic flow on Vermont highways. Guitarist, birder, biker, and intrepid traveler, John is survived by his siblings and their families.

On a brighter note, the College heard from **Ted** and **Nancy Adams Morse**. They were honored and thanked by the Warren (Conn.) Land Trust (WLT) as they stepped down from the board of directors after many years of service. Ted joined the board in 2009 and served as president from 2009 to 2013. Calling him "a natural leader," the trust said that he led them to receiving accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance, "an onerous process that Ted oversaw with his customary good nature and equanimity." Nancy joined the board in 2011 and assumed the role of WLT secretary just as the trust embarked upon a major overhaul of the records associated with accreditation. "Thanks to Nancy's meticulous eye and inquiring mind, those records are in ship-shape." Congratulations to the Morses!

Check out page 55 for a sidebar about a classmate!

—Class Correspondents: R.W. "T" Tall Jr. (ahmic29@gmail.com), 204 Clark Rd., Cornwall, VT 05753; Polly Moore Walters (polly@frii.com), 100 Grandview Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521.

1966

Fay Hauberg Page, **Dudley** and **Rita Crocitto King**, and **Al Magary** sent colorful photo holiday cards to your Midd '66 class correspondents. It's a joy to see the multiplication of members of the class reflected in the images. We do so appreciate receiving these notes with visual updates. Al let us know that his "long and huge Hall's Chronicle project has reached 'print' in an early beta version at Early Print!"

After 50 years in their home in Southport, Conn., **Judy Nothnagle Reynolds** and her husband moved this past February to a continuing care retirement community in Redding, Conn. In reply to Prue's comment on such a decision being on many of our minds these days, Judy responded, "Indeed, home ownership with its demands can become more troublesome with age and health issues—but so difficult to bid our home farewell."

Joan Paul Lardner let us know that **Linda Whitworth Marshall**'s husband died last year. He had survived a heart attack a while before, but he wasn't able to recover from a later stroke. Fortunately, Joan says, "Linda has family right next door, plenty of grandkids, and is taking things day-by-day."

Preston and Beth (Holmes) '65 **Carter** have returned to New England after retiring from their longstanding general surgery and radiology practices in the Seattle area. They now reside in their new home in Blue Hill, on the mid-Maine coast. They continue to enjoy the outdoors, the many hiking opportunities in nearby Acadia National Park, and the pleasures of doting on their two grandchildren. They are often in touch with Susan Stitham and Carolyn Curtiss Peelle, both Midd '65. With their permission, here is their new contact information: Preston and Elizabeth Carter, 404 Falls Bridge Road, Blue Hill, ME 04614; email: plandejcarter@hotmail.com.

When she is not traveling, or planning to travel, **Cindy Brown** enjoys the 1950s "Sarasota School" architecture along her Meals on Wheels route in Florida. A new developer, she says, is "building one house at a time all over town. They are based on wide white panels in various arrangements—quite striking—and, he claims, environmentally friendly."

Cindy's life also involves her disabled sister, who lives in an assisted living facility. Her disabilities mostly stem from brain damage at birth, but Cindy has seen her make amazing progress since they moved to Florida. "I especially enjoy going to the theater, which we have a lot of, and she and I love movies." Cindy has been working on a historical novel for a long time and concluded that she is "not a writer—but I do enjoy the process.

"I think we are a fortunate generation, despite Vietnam. We saw the dangers of capitalism; many of us worked on developing the roots of necessary change, but most benefitted from economic progress. Now we can only weep for a frightening future and wish courage for those that follow."

As we noted in the winter issue, Betsey and **Rick Church** traveled both ways from New Hampshire by Amtrak to visit **Randy Washburne** and his wife, Gunvor Hildal. Their home in Port Angeles, Wash., overlooks the Strait of Juan de Fuca just across from Victoria, British Columbia. The train route was Albany, N.Y., overnight to Chicago, and two nights to Seattle. Making the round trip, the Churches were able to see the whole route in daylight. Rick notes, "North Dakota and Montana are beautiful, but just a little too long. Glacier Park and the Cascades are even more beautiful. The Amtrak crews are friendly and helpful."

While in Washington, the Churches drove almost to the top of Mt. Blue, part of the Olympics and over a mile high. They also spent a day in Victoria via ferry and a day exploring Cape Flattery with its Makah Indian Reservation. Randy paints on his iPad and, when the Churches visited, was refurbishing a pickup-mounted, home-made camper for further adventures.

"Though I haven't kept in contact with Middlebury classmates, I do think of them—**Kathy Tullai Grace**, **Sukey Hepp Janes**, **Liz Falk Lacharite**, **Pam Weeks Cavanaugh**, and others, especially my

PHOTOGRAPH BY LAUREN PUSATERI

dorm mates," writes **Sue Jones Brown**. "Middlebury does hold a special meaning for me, but because I transferred at the end of sophomore year to BU, I haven't felt a part of it as I would have had I graduated. I am so grateful to some of my professors, especially Dr. Cook and Arthur Healy, whose wisdom and passion for their subjects was a lifetime gift to me and many others, I'm certain."

Some of us may remember **Donald MacDermid**, who died in November 2022, as an art major at Middlebury. Although he was an inactive member of our class since 1991, we find from his obituary that he led an interesting life. After earning a graduate degree from the Rhode Island School of Design, he traveled the world and became well-known in his hometown of Chester, Conn. At some point, he incurred a traumatic brain injury, which, according to his obituary, "he never let define him." He had lifelong friends both at home and around the world.

We also learned that **Kerry Lee Campbell** died on March 10, 2023, after her sister Tracy informed the College. We send condolences to Tracy and all her family.

—Class Correspondents: Prue Frey Heikkinen (prueannarbor@gmail.com), 1914 Wayne St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104; Francine Clark Page (fpage2@myfairpoint.net), 19 Brigham Hill Ln., Essex, VT 05452.

1967

Thanks to **Nancy Boardman**, who sent memories of **Jim Gartenlaub**, who passed away in New York City in September 2022 from sudden complications of cancer. An obituary appears in the back of this issue.

Nancy graciously wrote, "Jim came to Middlebury from Brooklyn Poly Prep Country Day School and graduated from Midd as an English major. Jim was a quiet presence at the College, choosing not to join a fraternity or many clubs. An exception was Cinema Club, of which he was a member for three years; he also was part of the staff of Frontiers his senior year and made Dean's List as a junior." Our class sends condolences to his partner of 42 years, Diane Stephens.

Gary Margolis let us know about the death of **Janie Johnston McCabe** in May 2023, his college sweetheart, and he wrote a poem in her memory called "Afterwards." Email Susie if you'd like a copy of it. In 2010, **Sue Rugg Parmenter** was hiking the Offa's Dyke Path in Wales with friends and took a day off to meet up with Janie who lived there for many years. Sue shares, "She was at the time a grieving, quite recent widow and had begun to experience some serious health problems. Nevertheless, she welcomed me into her home, proudly showed off her garden, provided a lovely lunch, and talked a lot about their close friend Seamus Heaney, the famous Irish poet. In fact, I think she sent me home with one of his books. I will always remember Janie for her brilliant mind, her quirkiness, her great sense of fun, and her deep love of animals."

Last fall the Wof67 gathered at our usual time of year (second week of Sept.) at a new place—BlueWater Farm in Andover, N.H. The lodge we stayed in on a lovely small lake had been the main building for a girls' camp and was perfect, as was the warmish lake water, for our group. We enjoyed activities on land (hiking from the lodge to an outdoor chapel area and hiking to a pond on Proctor Academy trails) and lake (canoeing, kayaking, and swimming) and indoors (Ping-Pong and jigsaw puzzles and making a list of recommended books). Sharing around our gathering circle is always the heart of our time together and with one day of rain, we got to expand our time doing so with heartfelt sessions and personal messages and emotional support among us all. **Freddie Mahlmann** was head of our planning group this year and saw us through all the organizing it takes for this group to have a special time together. **Carol Collin Little** organized our delicious meals and snacks, and dishwashing using an institutional machine proved to be such fun there were always volunteers for the job. Joining in as well were **Helen Martin Whyte**, **Livvy Barbour Tarleton**, **Karen Unsworth**, **Marion Boultbee**, **Sue Parmenter**, **Carlisle Wildeman**, **Elaine Dunphy Foster**, **Barbara Oswalt Wynn**, **Mary Tallafuss Cuyler**, **Judy Pierpont**, **Joan Viehdorfer Roller**, **Linda Morse**, and **Susie Davis Patterson**. Plans are already afoot for this September so make sure Susie (contact info at the bottom of this column) knows to include you in the emails, which will have the information for this fall.

Marion Boultbee is thinking of taking AMTRAK's new service via the Ethan Allen Express up to Middlebury from NYC for this fall's gathering—this year at Bread Loaf. Maybe other women will join her to make up a "train party." We will be together September 10–13 and at this time it looks like we might have a crowd staying in several Bread Loaf houses, all grouped near each other near the Robert Frost trails and cabin. We currently have an active email list of 40 women, so be sure to let Susie know if you'd like to be added.

Peter Kovner writes, "The Men of '67 (MoSS)—fewer in number, creakier than ever, but ever feisty—were once again hosted by **Dave Tura** and **Drew Otocka** at their fishing camp in southern Vermont. **Andy Avery**, **Paul Ford**, **Jim Adams**, and I shared stories and memories, tall and short. Sweet."

A retirement lament came from **Lee Powers Smith**: "I have overloaded myself with volunteer work. I don't know how to say no to causes I care about. I am on three committees at a local (Mashpee, Cape Cod, Mass.) arts organization and chair one; I chair the Mashpee Cultural Council, which makes grants for cultural events in the arts, sciences, and indigenous history of our town (900 Wampanoag tribe members live in Mashpee); and I am the clerk of the town's finance committee, which I find mentally challenging and also fun. I'm trying to decide what to give up so I have more time with friends, but my positions are all so rewarding, and social at the same time, that I'm having trouble deciding."

Sue Schweickert Macy, ever the traveler, writes that when she went on a tour of the Civil Rights Freedom Trail from Atlanta into all of northwestern Alabama, there was a stop at Tuskegee Institute, which made her think about **Helen Whyte** and **Kathie Towle Hession**, who spent fall semester of junior year at Talladega College (Alabama's historically black college). "What vanguards they were!" writes Sue, and she's so correct. They both had significant life experiences as a result of that student exchange.

Susan Freier Geisenheimer writes, "My news is that I've found it hard not to be in charge. I'm the VP of our 270-unit condo in Miami Beach, Fla. I was part of a small group that overthrew a complacent board, which lacked transparency and honesty. It is a lot of work especially since we are involved in a three-year exterior restoration project in part because of the much-older building that collapsed several miles north of us. I head north frequently and am there all summer because of my four-year-old grandson and my six-year-old granddaughter, the true lights of my life. So far I've been lucky with my health. I continue to serve on a charter school elementary and middle school board in the South Bronx, probably going on 13 years."

—Class Correspondents: Peter Kovner (pkovner@gmail.com), 12 Independence Ave., Lexington, MA 02421; Karl Lindholm (lindholm@middlebury.edu), 825 Cider Mill Rd., Cornwall, VT 05753; Susan Davis Patterson (spatters@uvm.edu), 770 Indian Trail, Lake Dunmore, Leicester, VT 05733.

1968

"Mem'ries of most happy days." Reunion 2023. By now you will have read the synopsis of Reunion weekend that **Sue Hastings Chandler** and **Dick McMahon** sent out last summer. The weekend of June 9–11, 2023, was packed with activities, lectures, exhibits, tours, the Reunion parade and Convocation, our class memorial service, Sunday chapel service, food (and more food), and lots of time to meet and greet our former classmates. Among the 23 percent of our class able to attend Reunion was a new "classmate," Isabel, a sweet and perky four-month-old black Lab being socialized for Guiding Eyes for the Blind by **Barbara Shean Lippert** and husband Dick '66.

Our class was recognized at Convocation with the Gold Key Award for the post-50th Reunion class with the highest percentage of giving participation (56 percent, $1,496,259). We also received the Patricia Judah Palmer '57 Cane Society Award, honoring the 50th or post-50th Reunion class raising the largest total of life income gifts and documented bequest intentions. As **Sue Chandler** noted, "Our percentage of returning alums was only surpassed by the 50th. Again, we are an exceptional class!"

Our Memorial Committee—**Kathy Mason Ambrette**, **Jim Barnes**, **Ben Gregg**, and **Jeannine Laverty**—planned a lovely Celebration of Life program, including the poem "Happiness" by **Larry Raab**. Ben noted that at our 50th Reunion we recognized 48 members of our class who had passed away; in just the last five years we lost an additional 18 members: **Cynthia Camp Barker**, **Daniel Brown**, **Ruth Benzinger Cahill**, **Christopher Diamond**, **Timothy Dykman**, **John "Jake" Geer**, **Gerry Goodrich**, **William McCollom**, **Gale McFedries**, **Jeff Minns**, **Stephen Orndorf**, **Andrew Page**, **Elizabeth Eames Roebling**, **David Severance**, **Bruce Shafiroff**, **David "Skip" Smith**, **Janet Harris Warren**, and **Ruthann "Tani" Carman Wolff**.

If you haven't been back to Midd in several years, you would hardly recognize the campus—new and revamped buildings everywhere. Of note is that Battell Hall (covered in ivy, including many windows), which houses about 40 percent of the first-year class, will be replaced by a 298-bed, 87,000-square-foot residence hall for first-year students starting in fall 2025. Battell, which has served as a first-year residence hall for more than 70 years, will continue to be used for the duration while Stewart Hall, another first-year residence hall, is renovated. Each floor of the new L-shaped building will feature versatile common areas including lounges, study rooms, and communal kitchen spaces, where students can collaborate on projects or gather for events. The first floor will also house offices for Residential Life staff and will feature a spacious foyer with a central, open staircase. Throughout the building, ample windows will look out on campus views, bringing in natural light and creating a sense of connection to the broader campus landscape.

The latest map of the College is available at go.middlebury.edu/campusmap. A bus tour of the campus during Reunion showed the extent of campus recreation facilities (indoor tennis; climbing walls; golf course with golf pro and clubhouse restaurant; the 2016 Alumni Stadium, hailed as one of the best settings in all New England for sports; Kohn Field, an all-weather synthetic turf field for field hockey and lacrosse; Virtue Field House, used by town as well as gown; the natatorium, fitness center, and much more). The tour of the downtown area revealed the charming rail station—Middlebury now has daily passenger service via Amtrak Vermonter, which links Burlington to New York City; the last such service was in 1953!

For those of us who had been in choir, it was particularly poignant to see and hear Dr. Emory Fanning, who arrived at Midd at the start of our senior year, at the keyboard and leading the Reunion choir on Sunday.

If you were unable to attend our 55th, **Gail Hyde** will be glad to scan and send you copies of the Convocation program, chapel service, Celebration of Life service, script for the campus bus tour, and **Sue Chandler** and **Dick McMahon**'s summary of our 55th Reunion weekend.

In other news, **Dan Curry** writes, "Last July 28, I was involved with a White House team promoting the study of quantum science developing age-appropriate teaching materials to keep the U.S. in the lead in this important field. Space is humanity's future, and it is important for national security that the U.S. remains in the forefront of space exploration, as other nations are planning their own off-planet programs. Attendees included the CEO of Blue Origin, several astronauts, the head of Disney Imagineering, scholars, educators, scientists, business leaders, a fashion designer, and one filmmaker/visual effects artist."

Gloria Crawley Pelose writes that in July she and husband John took a five-day trip to Washington, D.C., as John had received invitations to a couple of events celebrating the 105th birthday of Army Warrant Officers, and Gloria got to have her first (and likely only) visit to the Pentagon. In August they traveled to Germany with other military retirees. The trip included a 10-night stay in Garmisch; among day trips to places in Germany and Austria, they also had a private tour of Dachau, which was especially poignant as John's father was in one of the Army units that liberated that concentration camp.

Check out photos of classmates on page 59!

—Class Correspondents: Gail Hyde (glhsrs@rit.edu), 23 Cricket Hill Dr., Pittsford, NY 14534; Tobi Gray Watson (watson.tobi@gmail.com), 369 Montezuma Avenue, Box 562, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

1969

Correspondent **Peter Reynolds** reports: Classmate **Amusaa Mwanamwambwa,** longest serving speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia (1998 to 2011), died in his native country in October 2023. He was married to Cathy (Allagoa) '70; two daughters went to Midd. **Charlie Beall** remembers him: "Amusaa was a great guy. We became friends very early freshman year. I was perhaps the worst possible goodwill ambassador, but he was kind and patient with my dopey sense of humor. He ultimately gravitated to the nickname 'Moose' mainly because he knew I thought it was funny. He

was secretly fun loving and I never heard him say an unkind word about anyone. He was a man long before most of us (born 1940). Wish I could have shared these thoughts with him."

Dave Brautigam and his partner, Missy Bongartz Ross '79, returned from Sweden last June after visiting son Noah '12, his Swedish wife, and their four-month-old son. On return, Dave's older son brought Dave's other four grandchildren for a visit from Reno. Dave continues to develop the Nordic trails at the Camels Hump Nordic Ski Association.

Ad Hall reports from his family homestead in Ashfield, Mass.: "Our big achievement is that our daughter, her husband, and their son, Ryker (3), just moved to Northampton, Mass., from Portland, Ore., so we're deep into grandparenting."

Another DTO sighting was at the Colchester Costco where **John Tidd** and I (**Peter**) ran into each other at the hearing aid counter. "And so it goes."

Last fall, Alison and I explored 800- to 1200-year-old underground cities in central Türkiye. By the end of our trip, I had experienced both the Dardanelles and the Bosporus, finally meeting a fifth grade goal.

Correspondent **Anne Harris Onion** reports: **Lynn Markham Beebe** writes, "After seven years in Jacksonville, Fla., where I received my liver transplant at the Mayo Clinic, we packed up and moved to Portland, Ore. It was hard convincing my golfer husband, David '67, to leave the Sunshine State. However, the lure of two of our children, plus two young grandgirls and now a granddog, to say nothing of the magnificence of the Pacific Northwest, was irresistible even during the rainy winters."

Two of our classmates live in Charlottesville, Va. **Virginia Hopper Hoverman** says she is still an enthusiastic volunteer usher at the Charlottesville Paramount Theater, a sweet gig. "I greet people, help them find seats, and then watch the performance for that evening: ballet, modern dance, symphony, live comedy, movies, and music. The team I work with is engaging and fun; they have become good friends. And it is a pleasure to support this community. I bought a condo here last year—what I like most is the view of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains to the west. I'm still hiking, enjoying outdoor activities, and doing my best to stay healthy with this aging body!"

Kathy Rouse reports that she and her partner, Jerry Vaneman, are thoroughly enjoying their move to Charlottesville. "We splurged and got a puppy named Muffin, who is a combination of Cavalier and poodle—she just makes our lives even more fantastic! I am not in love with the way older age is treating me so far—two torn rotator cuffs probably requiring surgery, are really uncomfortable. I can't play pickleball at all! On the more positive side, I have pretty much fallen in love with the parents and five children of an Afghanistan refugee family I am supporting, who have become family to me. I am also very involved in the senior center here in Charlottesville, which provides many different classes, lectures, exercise, and great people. I just finished reading and seeing the movie *Killers of the Flower Moon*. Both were excellent and very informative in terms of what the Osage Native Americans have had to deal with over the years and still are dealing with—certainly doesn't make me very proud of our American heritage, but our present political climate doesn't feel any better!"

And from Arizona, **Wendy Cole** still misses flying, but reports, "I am happily settled into my house with a pool in the foothills of Tucson! My 17 years in Park City were magical, but I love the desert (not so much the Javelinas and rattlesnakes) and really don't miss the snow! (Although the country's southernmost ski resort on Mt. Lemmon is only 20 miles from my house!) I get to see lots of Midd '69ers who come here in the winters to warm up, notably **Dan** and **Elinor Livingston Redmond** who have a house not too far from me. I still have my professional nose clips from synchronized swimming at Middlebury and use them in my pool."

Meanwhile, Perry and I (**Anne**) were excited last March to resume our trip to Spain that was abruptly curtailed in March 2020. We spent a month in Sevilla and Cordoba, with wonderful experiences of Semana Santa. My DuoLingo Spanish study was invaluable. I continue to volunteer for the board of our local land trust, read for the 47th year of our book group, walk daily seeking not only health but the beauties of the New England landscape, and try to solve the NYT Connections challenge! Best of all are times spent with our family—grandkids grow too fast!

Volunteering, pets, good reading, travel—what pursuits and connections are engaging you these days? We hope many of us will gather for our 55th Reunion in June and we would love to have your news for the fall magazine. Please send it to either Peter or myself. And check out a photo of classmates on page 59.

—Class Correspondents: Anne Harris Onion (aonion27@gmail.com), PO Box 207, Gilmanton, NH 03237; Peter Reynolds (preyn@gmavt.net), 493 Stillmeadow Ln., Addison, VT 05491.

1970
REUNION CLASS

Jeff Sturges writes that in the spring of 2023, "I met up with members of the Middlebury crew at Lake Quinsigamond at the New England Rowing Championships. My club provides volunteers as dockmasters, etc. I often do announcing there as I do at the Head of the Charles Regatta. Prior to my retirement a couple of years ago, I was president and CEO of Resolute Racing Shells and the crew at the championships was using one of my boats, which is owned by Middlebury. In September, **Rob Apple**, **Randy Rowland**, and I once again rode in the Kelly Brush bike ride at Middlebury. Afterwards I watched a spirited Panther men's soccer game with former teammate, Steve Lathrop '73. While starting as a member of the Class of '73, he took, I think, eight years to get his Middlebury degree, due to National Ski Team obligations."

Nancy Heller writes, "Thanks to the amazingly talented, patient, and generous **Bee Ottinger**, several of us from the Class of 1970 (plus a couple of Midd Kids from adjacent years) recently had a fascinating discussion about what it was like to be French majors at the College on the hill, during the late 1960s. What may sound like a rather dry subject quickly evolved into spirited considerations of such issues as colonialism, gender equity (or the lack thereof), and changing attitudes toward the teaching of foreign languages. Bee edited the video, resulting in another contribution to the series entitled *As We Recall*, accessible through the College's archives. In addition to Bee, participants included Charlotte "Chickie" Sibley '68, Steven Kohl '71, **Ginger Ward**, and myself."

BREAD LOAF SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

Barbara Cohen (MA '83), who writes under the name Barbara Dee, recently published another middle-grade novel called *Unstuck*. Over the years she has written 14 middle grade novels that have earned starred reviews and been named to many best-of lists.

Joan Connor (MA '84) sent word that she has published her sixth collection, *The Corner of East and Dreams*, which contains 19 stories described as "off-kilter in some way." The stories include retellings in new ways, such as "Cassie Bunyan's Yarn," which gives a voice to Paul Bunyan's wife.

Another author, **Jenifer Fox** (MA '94) wrote that she had published her third book, *My West*, a debut collection of poems, with Quillkeepers Press. Living in the Southwest, where she writes and paints watercolors, Jenifer had two of her poems win first and second place in the 2020 Southwestern Poet's Society annual literary awards competition.

In Hawaii, **Jennifer Lighty** (MA '98) published *Piko: A Return to the Dreaming* with Whale Road Press in Kona. In the Hawaiian language, *piko* can be translated as "the very center," or possibly the core design of our culture, from which everything results, and Jennifer's writings explore this concept.

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science's board of trustees recently named **Alden Smith** (MA '00) as the executive director of the environmental education nonprofit based in Quechee, Vt. Previously he had served two decades as the director of the Mountain School of Milton Academy, located in Vershire, Vt.

Zach Williams (MA '14) recently published *Beautiful Days*, a collection of 10 stories, several of which have appeared before in *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*, the *Paris Review*, and the *New Yorker*. He is a Jones Lecturer in Fiction at Stanford Univ., where he previously held a Wallace Stegner Fellowship.

BETTY ASHBURY JONES MA '86 SCHOOL OF FRENCH

Last October, a new book by **John Webb** (MA '72) was released by Potomac Books, an imprint of the University of Nebraska Press, called *Molyvos: A Greek Village's Heroic Response to the Global Refugee Crisis*. John tells the story of how a small village on an island not far from Turkey experienced an enormous influx of refugees 10 years ago and how the villagers carried out an around-the-clock rescue operation. You can read a review of the book on middleburymagazine.com in the Editors' Picks.

In the spring of 2023, **Chip Haskell** (MA '90) competed in the championships of the 1-26 Association at Caesar Creek Soaring Club, coming in second in the competition of soaring in the Schweizer 1-26 sailplane. He wrote an article for the association's newsletter called "One Last Dance" about the event and his part in it.

ITALIAN SCHOOL

Dona Frauenhofer (MA '83) writes, "Since August 2022, I have been doing some work for FlashStart, a cybersecurity company based in Cesena, Italy. I translate website articles, newsletter information, and emails from Italian to English. I still teach Italian to adult learners here in Connecticut, both privately and in a classroom setting. My grandchildren are Nora (5) and Milo (2) in Grand Rapids, Mich., and Arya (4) in Woodstock, Conn. On a sad note, my mom, Millie Robustelli, passed away on March 18, 2023, at the age of 90. She made Middlebury and my amazing year in Florence possible. She is greatly missed."

Marlena Figge (MA '21) has been writing articles about various authors, poets, and literary works for the *Epoch Times*, including recent essays called "Chaucer, Longfellow, and the Tradition of Storytelling," and "Shakespeare's Sonnet 60: Inspiration from the Sea." She currently has a teaching fellowship and teaches English at a high school in Italy.

MIDDLEBURY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT MONTEREY

Author and historian **Gail Shaffer Blankenau** (MAIPS '83) has published her book, *Journey to Freedom: Uncovering the Grayson Sisters' Escape from Nebraska Territory*, the first detailed history of Black enslavement in Nebraska. In 2023, she received the James L. Sellers Prize for her article about the Grayson sisters in *Nebraska History* magazine.

The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust and River Revitalization Foundation in Wisconsin recently welcomed **Kelly Moore Brands** (MAIEP '09) as the community conservation director. She has more than 12 years of experience in the nonprofit environmental sector and spent the past nine years working to make Milwaukee's green and blue spaces more equitable and biologically diverse.

SCHOOL OF SPANISH

Jory Hingson Fisher (MA '76) is the founder and president of Jory Fisher & Associates, a coaching and mentoring firm based in Bel Air, Md. Acquisition International named her the 2023 winner of the Influential Businesswoman Award for being the most client-focused business coach leader in Washington, D.C.

Catherine Rodgers (MA '92) writes, "How can I tell the last 30 years in 100 words? Breathe! After teaching at College of Charleston and Wake Forest University, I married and moved to Rome then Milan, raised a family (daughter, Cornell U.'26), and now work occasionally as an art collector/gallerist, journalist, relocation consultant, and English or Spanish instructor." Friends **Jean Delcourt** (DML '02), **Laura Moses** (MA French '95), and **Ana Jansen Wiseman** (DML '96) were planning to visit Europe last year. "Although it's not the same as the Middlebury Chapel, a few churches in Milano may do for the reunion."

In the *Larchmont Chronicle* of Wilshire Center, Calif., **Peggy Procter** (MA '94) was profiled in the "Women of Accomplishment" section. She serves as the head of Echo Horizon School in Culver City, Calif., which is an independent school offering a co-enrollment program for bright students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The Golden Apple Foundation of Illinois recently selected **Lisa Bucciarelli-Carlos** (MA '00) for the 2024 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Leadership. The award honors exemplary performance in school leadership by a principal or head of school. Lisa is the principal of Plainfield Elementary School in the Des Plaines, Ill., Elementary School District.

Last fall, the Greater Northampton (Mass.) Chamber of Commerce announced that **Claire Kelly** (MA '12) had been hired as senior manager of investor and community relations. She was previously founder and director of Educational Experiences Abroad, with programs primarily in Cuba.

Alicia Allen (MA '22) was identified as one of the "Leading Women under 40" by the *Daily Record* of Baltimore, Md. She is a modern language teacher at Gilman School in Baltimore.

CLASS ACTS

Jo Wayles writes, "Seven of us from '70 gathered in Tucson in April 2023. **Sandy Humphrey Rybczynski**, **Carol Tobin**, **Rena Gearhart Diana**, **Suzy Pexton Bourque**, **Bee Ottinger**, **Nan Adams Roth**, and I spent four days at the unique Wild Purple Ranch. Tucson residents Suzy and Bee were great hosts as we caught up, ate well, played games, did an art project, and told tales."

Diantha Bartlett Howard writes that she now has another grandson. "We didn't think we would have any grandchildren, and now we have three under three!"

—Class Correspondents: Carol Harden (charden@utk.edu); Diantha Bartlett Howard (diantha.howard@uvm.edu); Beth Prasse Seeley (beth@seeley.com).

1971

We had an encouraging update from **Sandy Neily** on her health challenges: "I've had a few tough medical years that had me sadly miss Reunions: breast cancer treatment, open heart surgery (during COVID—especially fun), and a knee replacement. I think I'm back to being a bit more of a threat, writing mystery novels about the murder of the natural world. (Read about them on Amazon.) I'm working on a third book that has salamanders triumphing in unexpected ways. Cancer has been a theme the past few years as close family and friends have also made this rugged journey. I wrote a much-viewed post for *Maine Crime Writers,* sharing things folks don't know or talk about (search "Chemo Tips: No Horror Stories, Please"). A pic of me casting while bald may say it all. In March 2020, just as the pandemic got going, my husband, Bob, and I somehow managed to snag one of the last small campers available, and we spent that scary summer enjoying the Maine outdoors. Because we traveled with our own toilet and tons of peanut butter, we were the envy of folks everywhere we went. We even traveled to Vermont to camp out in friend Marian Greenberg's backyard and share fun meals at opposite ends of a long, outdoor table. Marian's

wonderful late husband, **Pete Quinn**, was much remembered and missed, and as I walked his fields and roads, I heard his gentle, wise-cracking soul. Back in Maine I have two wonderful granddaughters who call me 'MooMoo' and like to play endless games of Zombie Tag with me. I pretend I'm very lithe and athletic and then recover with a heating pad after I get home. Meanwhile, Bob and I will be spending lots of time at my camp on Moosehead Lake. Guests are always welcome to come up, listen to the loons at night, and enjoy a warm fire."

Susan Fritsch Hunter wrote that her poetry chapbook, *Unfinished Spaces*, was published in January by Finishing Line Press. Poet Keetje Kuipers calls the book "an intimate exploration of past and future, memory, and premonition. In these poems, endings don't come with the finality of the click of a lock, but instead hang like doors left ajar." Susan shared her poems at readings in Plymouth, Mass., and on Cape Cod this winter and spring. She writes, "I'm proud that I'm having my first book of poetry published, but I know that many of us continue to make meaningful contributions to our world, whether it's writing a book, creating a painting or sculpture, curating major artwork, performing in musical concerts, or doing humanitarian work throughout the world. This says a lot about who we are as a generation, including our goals and achievements and the influence a liberal arts education has had on all of us."

Patty Hartlieb Selsky learned about Susan's new book when the two met up on Cape Cod last summer. While visiting family members on both coasts, Susan and Patty have been getting together occasionally over the past few years near Susan's home in Plymouth, Mass., or Patty's in Carmichael, Calif. "In August we met for lunch and a walk along the scenic Cape Cod Canal," Patty wrote. Susan added, "Patty travels to Massachusetts every summer to visit friends on the Cape, so we make sure to get together when she's here. We had lunch in (appropriately) Sandwich, Mass., and enjoyed good food and good conversation, reminiscing about Middlebury friends and mutual friends from the Sacramento, Calif., area. It was a beautiful day for a walk along the canal."

We heard from **Tom Tobin** who reports that he's doing very well after several medically challenging years and is in the best shape he's been in for a long time. Shortly after our last Reunion, he checked in to explore chest tightness symptoms that led to the discovery of blockages in three major arteries. "I'm extraordinarily lucky I didn't have a heart attack," he said. Within a month he had triple bypass surgery at Yale New Haven Hospital. "My family was incredible, supported by **John Gambell** and **Martha Murray**'s generous offer to use their house during convalescence as a place to stay." Since then, "Getting healthy has been a full-time job," with a treadmill, biking, strength training, stretching, eating right, and weight loss, and he's having fun doing it all. Tom's experience as a DJ at WRMC means that he's an expert at identifying the music played at cardio lab. As his health improves, he's getting back to living his life and making the next years good ones. "I will never forget how fortunate I am to be alive! I finally have the stamina and confidence to try new things." And finally, "Don't ignore that tightness or slight pain in your chest! We are of an age."

Speaking of **John Gambell**, word came to the Middlebury Alumni Office that John had recently retired from his long-time position as university printer at Yale. In that capacity, John led the campus-wide effort to establish a "Yale brand" and to ensure its consistent use across signage, websites, catalogs, maps, and major design projects. The Yale Alumni Office published a glowing review of his contributions to the university—search yalealumnimagazine.org/magazine. Way to go, John!

Sadly, **Helen Fleming** (**Maxson**) **Cervini** passed away January 27, 2023, in Weatherford, Okla. Helen was born and raised in New England: Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. After graduating from Middlebury, she earned a Master of Arts at Bread Loaf and a PhD in British literature at Cornell. She had a long career in education, including at Southwestern Oklahoma State Univ. (SWOSU), where she was beloved by her students—she relished engaging them in classroom debate and discussion. Helen published many articles and conference papers throughout her tenure at SWOSU, focused on the writings of Wendell Berry, Walt McDonald, and Caryl Phillips, among others. She served as president of SWOSU's faculty senate and cherished many deep friendships with her colleagues. While at SWOSU Helen met her husband, Michael, with whom she shared 30 years of devotion and love. Helen was a faithful and active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Her faith gave her a second family and allowed her to face illness with calm and hope.

Best to all and send us your news!

—Class Correspondents: Gail Cross Giebink (ggiebink@austin.utexas.edu); Carolyn Ungberg Olivier (carolyn.olivier@gmail.com); Karen Lindsay Palmer (kpalmer@hbr.org).

1972

Bob Metzger was named a "Top Voice" by LinkedIn, which is an invitation-only program featuring a global group of experts covering a range of topics across the professional world. "Top Voices" are vetted to ensure that they meet high trust standards and share valuable expertise through content that demonstrates their unique, original contributions to a topic. Bob is still active in private legal practice and in public policy matters. including cyber and supply chain security and related national security concerns. Bob also learned in late April that Lawdragon, an international reviewing authority, had selected him as one of the 500 leading global cyber lawyers.

Evey Zmudsky LaMont ran into classmate **Penny McIlwaine** in the Bozeman Airport over the Christmas holidays. "Such fun to see Midd classmates where you least expect to. We didn't have time to say much more than 'hi' and 'goodbye.' It would be fun to hear of other unexpected encounters by classmates!"

Back in 2022, **Priscilla Gamble Slocum** was one of nine writers in an intensive, nine-month memoir-writing class led by a former Bread Loaf scholar. The workshop "opened my 72-year-old eyes to life—saying its truths, its layers, its complexities better—no easy task for someone who had barely any experience with creative nonfiction." The class resulted in a book, *A Weave, A Basket, A Vessel: Outtakes from a Memoir Master Class* (available on Amazon), described as both an anthology (of work by Priscilla and other participants) and a teaching guide on the craft of memoir. More recently, Priscilla has been "transcribing and contextualizing the recently discovered 100+ letters my father wrote his parents from the South Pacific during WWII." While pondering these and other letters/photos saved by over four generations of relations, she was also awaiting her first grandchild due mid-May.

—Class Correspondents: Jennifer Hamlin Church (jhchurch@sienaheights.edu); Evey Zmudsky LaMont (eveylamont@gmail.com).

1973

Correspondent **Deborah Greenhut** reports: Here I am again, and it feels like, well, home. While still glowing from the embers of our incredible 50th Reunion, several of us had two "ZoomUnions" during October, attended by nearly 30 people, total. Current projects were discussed, along with current events at the College; some recounting of stories we hadn't heard before happened; and we congratulated ourselves for staying curious, engaged, and lively in the world. It was a delight to keep in touch.

I've heard from the following classmates who also wanted to give updates on their current activities. Traveling with other classmates is one endearing custom we're hearing about. As something like retirement-but-not-really beckons, there's still a whole lot of learning and rewarding work going on.

Kit Fuller writes, "Attending the class Reunion was a wonderful experience! Thanks to the organizers who put it all together! We followed up that trip with a 17-day hiking trip to the Dolomites in early July, which we followed up with 11 days in October visiting friends in Santa Fe and Albuquerque for the eclipse and balloon fiesta and petroglyphs and other hikes. Wanda and I keep our Fitbits pretty busy the rest of the time with mountain hikes here in Colorado—when we're not gardening—walking local trails, working around the house or yard, running around with grandkids, or taking the occasional bike ride. And HEY! Here's a hot NYC musical theater tip: There may be a hilarious new musical comedy opening somewhere off-Broadway this year called *In the Trenches—A Parenting Musical Comedy*, created by our son and daughter-in-law, Graham and Kristina Fuller. Lots of bits have been posted on Facebook and Instagram as the show has developed, and New York producers are looking to bring it to NYC. Here's hoping all goes well for this show. It has been a sell-out everywhere so far in Colorado, and it deserves a bigger audience!"

Peter Hamlin says, "Although I retired from the Middlebury faculty in 2019, I've enjoyed teaching a class or two every year. This year, I taught a January class on creating computer visualizations of sound and offered a sound design class in the spring." He also created original music and sound design for a Middlebury theatre production of *Orlando*, a play based on the Virginia Wolff novel. Last fall, he and wife **Chris Robbins** were in Spain for five weeks. "We began studying Spanish at the Middlebury summer Spanish immersion program in 2016. (Yes, that program is absolutely as great as its reputation!) We've tried to keep up with language-study trips. We stayed in Granada, a city we've fallen in love with, taking classes at an excellent school we found there."

Sage Russell reports, "Last August I attended Alumni College for the first time as a participant. (When I worked at the College in the late '80s and early '90s, I staffed it.) It was a great experience and very well attended by the Class of 1973. There were nine of us: **Twig Held Brunger**, **Lesley Cadman**, **Tutu Dale**, **Janet Frey DeVito**, **Mary Farley**, **Kit Adams Miller**, **Walter Newman**, **Foster Osborne**, and me—plus many familiar faces from surrounding classes.

"In early October, my husband Jeff and I, along with Steve '71 and **Laurie Fuller Peach,** biked 240 miles along the Katy Trail in Missouri. We were self-propelled—no assistance from e-bikes! The Katy Trail, named for the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad, is a rail trail that follows the Missouri River (and the Lewis and Clark expedition!) for most of its distance. Because it's a rail trail, it has the distinct benefits of being flat and undisturbed by car traffic. Jeff and I have ridden along several of these rail trails in the past few years, including the C&O Canal and Great Allegheny Passage in our area, and the western section of the Erie Canal, and we've really enjoyed them."

At Reunion we learned of the passing of classmate **Phil Pope.** Phil grew up in West Simsbury, Conn., and was a multisport athlete, holding several Connecticut high school football records. At Middlebury he was an all-American football player and senior year he was named the New England Football Player of the Year, ranked third in the nation in scoring. He led Middlebury to an undefeated and untied season. He had two sons and was a coach and avid supporter

of their athletic careers. He loved all things fly-fishing and taught fly-tying classes for over a decade at Andy Thornal in Winter Haven, Fla. Our condolences are sent to his family.

We also received the news of the passing of **Roger Knowles**. **Bill Burke** kindly wrote this tribute to his friend: "Roger was a hockey teammate, a DU fraternity brother, and a beloved friend of mine. Roger suffered from dementia and had with him until the end the puck that he shot into the net for his first goal with the Oshawa Generals, assisted by Bobby Orr. He was an art major, a smooth skater, a gifted hockey player, a kind and gentle soul, and a loyal friend. May he rest in heaven and may his family and friends be comforted by our Lord's peace, the peace that surpasses all human understanding."

—Class Correspondents: Rob Badger (randcbadger@gmail.com); Deborah Greenhut (deborah.greenhut@gmail.com).

1974

We hope you were able to make it to Reunion! We will have a report about Reunion weekend activities in the next issue.

—Class Correspondents: Barry Schultz King (kinglet@together.net); Steve Trebino (stevetrebino@gmail.com).

1975

REUNION CLASS

Laurie Ellis Bruckmann writes, "I'm the ecstatic grandmother of five, all under the age of five. They came in a sudden rush just as I was losing hope. Now I get to relive my days as a Montessori teacher and am equipping my home with flash cards, terrariums, paints, clay, and of course, animals. Totally fun.

"After many years in New York, I put my business, Brush and Bone Portraits (of dogs), to sleep and left the city for Naples, Fla. This happened just before COVID, and I found it hard to repot myself there. As I visited my daughter in Charlotte, Vt., it became clear that it was time to go back. I'm in the process of building a house there and look forward to returning to the Green Mountains. Recently I reconnected with Susan Hong '74, who lives there as well. As always, connecting with classmates either in Vermont or Naples would be a pleasure."

Susan Martin says, "I think it's been a while for me. So I'll give you a bit of news—it's been a good year. We welcomed out first grandchild! Ada (we are so proud of this) is named after Ada Lovelace, considered by many the first computer programmer on the 'Babbage Computing Engine' in the 1840s. She was also the only legitimate child of Lord Byron!

"I waited a long time for grandkids, but it's partly my fault, as I had my kids at 34 and 37! My boys are now 35 and 32 (Ada belongs to Chris, our 32-year-old). Chris and his wife, Jess, met at CalTech, so their baby-naming of Ada is not surprising! The other couple is 'working on' getting pregnant, but my other daughter-in-law is 35 and a full-time physician. So my fingers are crossed!

"I still live on Amelia Island (20 years now); Bob and I travel a lot. The Amelia Island Museum of History still keeps me busy as a docent, costumed historical character, and board member. That's about it. I visit Vermont at least once a year—have several dear friends there to visit, along with just enjoying the joy of being there!"

Pier Stock McGrath reports with great sadness the death of her husband **John F. McGrath** from pancreatic cancer on August 21, 2023. He was surrounded by family in his Oakton, Va., home and in addition to his wife, survivors include two daughters, one son, and two grandchildren. A large group of Middlebury classmates came from near and far to attend John's funeral and to honor his life of service in government and the nonprofit education sector.

Kari Sides Suva writes, "Bob and I love living in Portland, Maine, and particularly now that son Skip, wife Emily, and 18-month-old granddaughter Mari live nearby! Daughter Phoebe is in the Master of Social Work program at the University of Washington in Seattle. We hope she will return to the East Coast. I am fully retired, and after family and exercise, my focus is on increasing youth civic engagement in Maine with the League of Women Voters of Maine. I love the project work, my community of activists, and working on issues that are important to me."

I (**Nan**) received news that **Kevin Donahue** was recently honored by his secondary school by being inducted into the Saint Raphael Academy Hall of Fame. It was only the third group of inductees, and it honored those who have had a long association and outstanding record of service and loyalty to the academy. Nominees are chosen based on their demonstrated lifelong commitment to the Lasallian ideals of faith, service, and community. Each nominee has embodied these beliefs in all aspects of his or her life and lived his or her faith as a Catholic in a significant manner. They also exhibit unique social service and citizenship in the extended community in which they live.

—Class Correspondent: Nan Rochelle McNicholas (hbmidd@yahoo.com).

1976

Jim Robinson writes, "After a satisfying career in political and business communications in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento, I'm retired and living in Huntington Beach, Calif. I'm pleased to report that classmate **Gary Holmes** and I have launched a successful podcast called *The Celluloid President*, which discusses how Hollywood has portrayed American presidents in the movies over the years. If you are a film buff or interested in presidential history, check it out on Spotify, iTunes, Amazon Music, and other popular podcast platforms."

Beryn Frank Harty reports: "My hubby and I continue to live full time in the Florida Keys (Ramrod Key), about 40 minutes from Key West. After too many years of 60-hour work weeks, elderly and ill parents, and aging fur babies, followed by COVID cancellations, we've finally started traveling. Last year saw us in England, Scotland, Norway, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Bali, Komodo Island, Fiji, and throughout French Polynesia, as well as on five of the Hawaiian islands, with quite a number of private birding tours in various locales. This year promises a birding trip and travels in the rainforest in Ecuador and Quito, a Western Caribbean cruise with private birding tours in Granada and Guadalupe, more of Australia, Indonesia, and throughout the Far East and Japan. Woo-hoo!"

Christi Rentsch Moraga says, "I balance my life between family and various organizations. I love being a docent at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Conn., where I give tours in English, French, and Spanish. I seek engaging speakers for MILE (lifelong learning in Middletown) and for the Alliance Française de Hartford. I keep up with my field by volunteering on the Conn. Council of Language Teachers. And I recently joined a local four-town council to encourage affordable housing and more equity in various domains. I'm getting ready to go on a parrot pilgrimage in Nicaragua."

John Germanow and his wife moved three years ago to a beach-front townhouse in the San Diego-area town of Solana Beach to be closer to three of their children and a grandchild (their other two sons also live on the West Coast): "We enjoy the year-round clear skies, sunshine, and mild temps compared to the gray and snow we left in upstate New York. We've enjoyed exploring and touring around Southern California and the Southwest U.S. We have also made a point of at least one overseas trip each year. We had a wonderful time traveling through the heart of Switzerland in the Jungfrau, an area of snow-capped mountains and glaciers and picturesque hillsides with cows shaking their bells. We also toured through southern France, where I was able to attend a Rugby World Cup game in Lyon—something that has been on my bucket list for a long time, ever since I started playing rugby during junior year abroad in Israel. Last year we toured southern and northeastern Spain. Next year we're planning a Scandinavian tour." For the past 15 years, John and his wife have run a small business called Scensible Source, which supplies niche products for ladies' restrooms primarily in commercial and public facilities but also for home use. They're also into pickleball and golf, lots of hiking, and walking with their dog and, of course, babysitting grandkids.

—Class Correspondents: P. Joan Ingram Gavigan (joan.gavigan@gmail.com); Gary Holmes (garyholmes76@gmail.com).

1977

As we enjoy the summer of 2024, I hope everyone is healthy and having good experiences. And maybe making a note to share them with your classmates.

Susan Finney Blair shares exciting news about her first full-length collection of poetry, *A Howling,* which has been published by Press 53 as a Tom Lombardo Poetry Selection. She notes: "Cynthia Neely, author of *Flight Path* and *Passing Through Blue Earth,* very generously wrote this about my book: 'The poems of Susan Blair envelop the natural world that surrounds her, while remaining rooted in a self-reflection that spans family relationships, aloneness, grief, and regrets. Susan's gift of language, sense of irony, musical wordplay, and personifications elevate the collection beyond reflection and serve to remind us to embrace the joys of being alive in this world, despite the losses we endure.'" If you

AMERICAN WOMEN ARTISTS TO KNOW
WITH

KIM CONATY '99

Chief Curator of the Whitney Museum of American Art

Ruth Asawa (1926–2013) is best known for her mesmerizing wire sculptures and exquisite drawings, but she was also a lifelong educator and arts advocate. Her artwork hangs in major museums across the country, her public art commissions abound in the Bay Area, and her impact on generations of young people whose lives she touched in San Francisco—where February 12 is now "Ruth Asawa Day"—has yet to be measured.

Now 80 years young, **Suzanne Jackson** (b. 1944) is one of the stars of the *2024 Whitney Biennial*, where her most recent works—diaphanous curtains of paint suspended in space—show off her technical prowess and boundless creativity. Her fascinating five-decade career as a painter, set designer, and arts organizer is just now gaining the broader attention it deserves.

In commanding paintings involving beadwork and porcupine quills, **Dyani White Hawk** (Sicangu Lakota, b. 1976) explores legacies of mid-20th-century abstraction in relation to Indigenous aesthetics. In so doing, she has become a leading voice in questions of cultural influence, acknowledging the centrality of Indigenous practices within modern and contemporary art and asking, "Who owns these abstract languages?"

If the Shoe Fits

A new startup looks toward an often-overlooked segment of **high-end sneaker consumers**

"Be authentically yourself."

For Adam King '05, that's not just a personal philosophy; it's also the motto of 1587 Sneakers, the company he cofounded with Sam Hyun in 2019 and launched last summer. The Boston-based startup, of which King is CEO, sells high-quality, Italian-made sneakers with a target audience that King says most sneaker companies tend to ignore: Asian Americans.

After working over 15 years in the sneaker industry for both large companies and small startups, King felt he had the experience to start his own business—with an eye toward a market he saw as largely untapped. He says Asian Americans buy 15 percent of the sneakers in the U.S. but represent only 8 percent of the population. Yet in corporate marketing meetings, "people spent so much energy explaining why you don't market to them. They'd be like, 'Asian Americans are follower consumers. You market to someone else, and they'll just follow along.'" King saw an opportunity to change that narrative and create a brand—1587 Sneakers—that sent a different message: "Be authentically Asian American."

King says 1587 Sneakers are built to look good and to last. But their appeal goes beyond the physical product. "How do we want people to feel when they're looking at our shoes and wearing our shoes? The thing we decided was to be unapologetically yourself. That's important, not just to Asian Americans; it's a message that resonates with everyone." (The numbers support that opinion; King estimates 30 to 40 percent of 1587's consumers are not Asian American.)

King calls 1587 a "founder-forward brand," and he means it. The company sends a personal email to every customer—King even gives out his number and invites people to text. The brand name itself sparks conversation, with many people asking what the "1587" means. "It's a nice segue to be like, 'Oh, that's the first year Asian Americans came to North America,' and that gives people an opportunity to talk about their identity."

Living the company motto of being unapologetically authentic has been not just liberating, King says, but also good for business. "Sam and I are really aligned in terms of our company's mission and our personal beliefs. We don't ever have to tiptoe around things. People know and buy our stuff. They know exactly what we are and what we stand for."

Read a dispatch about 1587 Sneakers at middleburymagazine.com.

would like more information about Susan's book, please contact her at sfblair61@gmail.com.

Franklin Morton and wife Debbie hosted a gathering in Deer Valley, Utah, to kick off the March Madness season of 2024. Attending in person were **Tuck Bigelow**, **Keith Michl**, **Betsy Seeley**, **Anne Van Ingen** and your faithful correspondent, who all got to meet the Morton's new granddaughter. **Trygve Loken** joined by phone. Skiing and eating were the primary activities and enjoyed by all.

Laurel Berner Harvey writes that she is closing in on her Grand Master in bridge with a few more points to go. She recently visited with **Katie Smith Sloan** and is attending a Midd event at the Guggenheim.

Scott Markus has been recognized by the Best Lawyers in America 2024 for his work as a mediator in San Diego, Calif. Scott has more than 30-years' experience providing mediation services throughout California for a variety of individuals and organizations.

I must also share that two of our classmates have passed on, **Dean Corren** on May 2, 2023, and **Matthew Weinheimer** on October 6, 2023. May their memories be a blessing to those that knew them.

As noted previously, I am still not on any social media so please share your news with an email. Any updates are most welcome. And if anyone more tech savvy wishes to take on this opportunity, please let me know. Till then, peace and good health as we travel through the rest of 2024.

—Class Correspondent: Bob Lindberg (boblindberg1928@gmail.com).

1978

Our 45th Reunion was nothing short of fantastic. Over 100 classmates, partners, and friends made the trek to Middlebury for a full weekend of events and the chance to reconnect with friends old and new. The weather was nearly perfect—warm days, cool nights, and plenty of sunshine. Some of the early arrivers started things off with Thursday gatherings at Mr. Up's and Two Brothers. Official Friday festivities started with drinks and dinner from several food trucks behind the Mahaney Arts Center. Then our class closed the evening with another show from the 1978 class band Girth, Wind, and Tired, which featured some very hot vocals from the "Towlettes," supported by the very tight "Incontinents" rhythm section. This show is a real joy for the band members and the support from our classmates is second to none! Special thanks to **Jon Hart** and others for capturing several songs on video.

Saturday was chock-filled, starting with a well-attended morning class gathering to share thoughts on "What's Our Legacy?" Some of us may still be creating our legacies, but many shared thoughts about how things like values, family, and their life work have helped shape their legacies. Some of the insights were truly inspiring and could be worthy of an entire TED talk. Saturday highlights were **Ken Polhman**'s art gallery tour and a gathering near our class memorial tree to remember those classmates who have passed. Special thanks to **Beth Warfield**'s husband, Jeff, for leading us in some of our favorite songs. It was very moving! Convocation in the chapel was raucous as usual, with some especially humorous moments from the members of the Class of '48 celebrating their 75th Reunion! After Convocation, we made the trek back to Mahaney for another memorable Saturday evening with great food, fireworks, and music from a fantastic band.

Sunday came too quickly, but many were able to have some final conversations at **Bern Terry** and **Katie Shepherd**'s farm in the hills. There are many photos posted from this wonderful gathering.

We all left the campus with permanent smiles. Many, many thanks to all who organized a wonderful weekend! For those unable to attend—please make plans to attend our 50th! You won't be disappointed! And if you haven't done so, check out the Reunion photos at middlebury.smugmug.com. Go to 2023, Alumni and Families, and Reunion.

Our class sends its condolences to the family of **Robert Connerty**, of Stowe, Vt., who died on July 5, 2023. Rob worked with the Olin Ski Company, in sales management in the hockey industry for Bauer, CCM, and Easton Sports, and in business development for MSI. He retired early, joining the boards of Vermont Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Stowe Trails Partnership.

Our class also sends its condolences to the family of **Nancy Lea Hartshorn**, of Littleton, N.H., who died on April 28, 2023. A German major, Nancy worked as a translator, a teacher, and a paralegal before starting her own business, Omega Title & Closing.

—Class Correspondents: David Jaffray (ddjaffray@gmail.com); Anne Rowell Noble (anne.noble@gmail.com).

1979

Mark Gordon is emerging as a leader in promoting climate-friendly energy projects, beginning with efforts in Wyoming, where he is governor. Last year he appeared on *60 Minutes* to discuss those efforts. He was also interviewed by Trude "Max" Padilla '22 for the *Chicago Policy Review,* where he discussed issues specific to Wyoming and rural America and also focused on climate policy and environmental, social, and governance policies. In a second part of the interview, he discussed Wyoming's economy, the lack of understanding from Washington, and cryptocurrency.

—Class Correspondent: Henry Heyburn (hrheyburn@hotmail.com).

1980

REUNION CLASS

From California **Kimberly Winick** reports, "After 38 years with law firms, I wound up self-employed as a testifying expert in a jury trial in autumn 2022. That winter I planned two months of travel and decided I would take a break from clients. In March I became immersed in the organizational rejuvenation of the Pasadena Symphony Association (PSA). The CEO of 10 years left for a new post in Seattle, and I joined the transition team and became co-chair of the search committee. All summer my involvement was long distance as I traveled to road/cycling trips in Montana and Oregon and spent a month with husband Larry in Africa (safari in Kenya, Victoria Falls in Zambia and Zimbabwe, Nungwi Beach on Zanzibar—ask me about Porini Camps!). On my return in September, I became president of the board of directors of the PSA. We wound up the CEO search in September, and Andrew Brown started November 13, relieving me of some unanticipated public duties. We continued the music director search through spring, and Brett Mitchell stepped into his new role April 1. Our new general manager started April 8 and the development director arrived April 30! I didn't realize my volunteer role would call on my expertise as a restructuring specialist, but the team building was fun, and I learned and continue to learn a ton! I've put other activities, such as financial coach for the International Rescue Committee, on hold for at least the first year of my two-year term, but not swimming, cycling, and gardening—I need those to preserve a modicum of sanity, at least through our next Reunion!"

—Class Correspondents: Anne Cowherd (annie.cowherd@att.net); Kimberly Winick (kimberly.winick@gmail.com).

1981

—Class Correspondent: Alice Tower Knapp (a.knapp.a@gmail.com).

1982

An update came from **Henriette Lazaridis**: "I spent a month in Antarctica in early 2024, starting in New Zealand and finishing up in Tierra del Fuego. The main motivation for this long itinerary—and 30 days on a ship—was that this was the only way I had a chance to visit the hut where Robert Scott based his 1910–13 Terra Nova expedition, in which he raced Amundsen to the South Pole. Weather and ice cooperated, and I got to go into the hut, and that will likely be one of the most moving experiences of my life. Shifting gears drastically, from Antarctica to Athens, my third novel came out April 9. It's set in contemporary Athens and traces the unlikely

ILLUSTRATION BY BOBBY DIXON

friendship between an old Athenian lady and a young and naive Greek American, each of whom is searching for meaning in the past and in what's to come. I'm excited to be launching *Last Days in Plaka* into the world!"

John Vergara and husband Michael have fulfilled a lifelong dream to live in Spain! "I blame classmate **Beth Stelluto Dunaier**—she and her hubby spent a year in Valencia awhile back and inspired us to follow suit." After an initial six months in Valencia, they bought a house near the Costa Blanca in Javea. "I've got some Midd classmates visiting this summer and look forward to hearing from others that are traveling this direction!"

Jon Warner writes, "I stopped working full time as of January 2024. Thankfully Vicki and I are playing more golf while spending time in Florida. These books were recommended to me—never much of a self-help reader, I have found them all helpful during my transition: *From Strength to Strength* by Arthur Brooks; *Die with Zero* by Bill Perkins; *How to Retire and Not Die* by Gary Sirak. While a great stress relief has occurred personally, that also equates to more down time. These authors helped me fine-tune my vision to succeed with my newfound freedom."

Alison McGhee's new novel, *Telephone of the Tree*, was in the world as of May 7. The novel, which is categorized for children but written for all ages, features two best friends, Kiri and Ayla, who live on a tight-knit city block lined with trees planted to celebrate births and memorialize those who have passed on. The inspiration for the novel came from the disconnected pay phone booth that Itaru Sasaki erected in his garden in northern Japan as a way to stay connected to his beloved cousin, who died of cancer. After the tsunami that killed thousands, others began making their way to the pay phone, now known as Japan's "wind telephone," to call their lost loved ones. Alison hopes that *Telephone of the Tree* might bring to readers the same sense of beauty, longing, and comfort that Japan's wind telephone brings to so many. Alison is currently working on a comic novel for adults. It's making her laugh, and writing rarely makes her laugh, so—yay!

From **Hannah Felton Lyons**, **Bettina Bretz Terfloth**, **Lori Geiger Carlton**, **Laura ten Broeke Rumbough**, **Archer Sinclair Griffith**, **Mimi Gleason**, **Heidi Reichenbach Harring**, **Tina Gluck Henderson**, **Paula Carr Cummings**, **Susan Meier Burke**, and **Marcie Smith Barker**:

We are very sad to share that **Patty Job McGrath** died in March after a heroic fight with ovarian cancer. Patty was a force of nature—a teacher, businesswoman, mother, wife, sister, daughter, and loyal friend. She was fierce, determined, hardworking, loving, brave, and kind.

Many of our memories of Patty date back to the fall of 1978 when the Hepburn fourth and fifth floor freshmen first met. At Middlebury Patty pursued some of her passions: intramural soccer, skiing, rugby, biology, and chemistry. She loved FADC (Friday Afternoon Drinking Club) at the Rosebud, cross-country skiing, Slug and KDR parties, swimming at the quarry, Bakery Lane treats, tailgating, and the raft race.

After college, life got busy as we all went our separate ways exploring the world, pursuing new jobs, and raising families. Patty and Murray had two sons, Connor and Brogan; became leaders in their community of Killington, Vt.—Patty served as town selectman for nine years—and ran the Inn at Long Trail at the base of Pico Mountain. Life was full and busy. Many of us stayed in touch—stopping by for a beer at the Inn's Irish pub after a day of skiing or hiking or simply exchanging Christmas cards, texts, and phone calls.

After kids started moving out, and with a little more freedom and time in our lives, a group of us "Midd girls" began gathering annually for a mini-reunion. Patty was there almost every year! We would hike, enjoy delicious meals together, talk, laugh, and share stories, worries, and the joys in our lives. Patty always showed up with her infectious smile, her strong convictions, scientific perspectives, and innate wisdom. These gatherings were special, giving us the opportunities to deepen our friendships as we helped each other navigate the next chapter in our lives.

Patty's courage, grace, and remarkable resilience set an example for all she came across. Even after her cancer diagnosis two years ago, she made a valiant effort to be present, and to stay engaged and interested in the goings on in the world. Being with her friends, her family, and her beloved animals (Nala, Baloo, and Mufassa) nourished her just as she cared for and nourished those around her. We all treasure these memories and the bonus time we got with Patty.

—Class Correspondents: Wendy Behringer Nelson (gomomgo920@gmail.com); Caleb Rick (crick@northcommon.com).

1983

Julienne Grant writes, "I started a new position as an instructor and reference librarian at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law in October 2022. UIC Law is Chicago's only public law school.

"I am also the new editor of the *International Journal of Legal Information*, which is the official publication of the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL). Although this role is a lot of work, it also has its perks, as I get to travel to fun places to meet with the IALL board. Last year, we were in Geneva, Switzerland, and this June, we are meeting in Oslo, Norway. I am always looking for new content for the journal, so I invite any classmates in the legal field to reach out if they'd like to contribute: jgrant002@att.net."

Danny Elish reports that his daughter, Cassie, will be a senior at Middlebury this fall. She's an English major, editor of the school satire magazine (which didn't exist in our day), and sings in the Mischords. She's really enjoying it. On the parental side, Danny has a novel coming out this year called *King of Broadway*, which recounts the humorous (hopefully) tale of an 85-year-old curmudgeon-genius and a 25-year-old neophyte writing a Broadway musical that is based on his children's novel, *The Worldwide Dessert Contest*. He hopes that some people look for it and find it amusing and theatrical.

Lots of retirements starting to pile up amongst us. In what might be our class's most delicious career, **Dave Burwick** of Peet's Coffee and Boston Beer Co. fame (beer and coffee!) is retiring

CELEBRATIONS

1 Jason Ienner '01 and Mariah Strongin celebrated their marriage on March 19, 2022, at Rosewood Baha Mar in the Bahamas. Middlebury friend David Cohen '01 attended.

2 Sarah Hatfield '09 was married to Michael Thompson '07 on May 6, 2023, in Providence, R.I. Middlebury friends who celebrated with the couple (in front) included Blake Daniel '10, Lise Rosenberger Hamilton '09, Avery Tilney '09, Sarah Brooks Delp '09, Louise Song Wood '09, Victoria Adkinson '08, Libby Brush '09, Blair Bowie '09, Andrew Eisen '08, Charlie Kolb '07, Sophie Thompson '09, Kathryn Laird '09, (second row) Kristen Laird '05, Michael Perez '08, and Noah Kazam '07.

3 Andrew Forsyth '03 and Jessica Potter were married on September 3, 2022, in Frisco, Colo. Several Middlebury friends attended: Benjamin Rosenfield '03, the newlyweds, Meredith Giersch '04.5, Heather Gary Breslow '04, and Martin Wesolowski '03.

4 Members of the Class of 2001 gathered with their families on Homecoming Weekend 2022 in front of Battell, where several of them met in fall 1997: (kneeling) Maya Capodilupo, Dylan Capodilupo, Sawyer Wilk, (second row) Nora Capodilupo, Zane Tsai, Ezra Tsai, Olivia Capodilupo, Myles Wilk, Freddy Arnould, (third row) Kristina Tsai, Kristen Sylva Capodilupo '01, Kate Griffiths Wilk '01, Matt Arnould '01 with Beckett, Leslie Fox Arnould '01 with Beatrice, (fourth row) James Tsai '01, Jason Ienner '01, Mariah Strongin Ienner, Corey Wilk '01, Alyona Feingold, and David Cohen '01.

5 Last winter Jackson Hole locals Brian Schilling '92, Ted Kyle '92, and Shawn Emory Ankeny '92 met up at the 2023 Jackson Hole IFSA Junior 2 Regional where their kids were competing at the village.

6 Agatha Vaaler '04 and Josh Kazdan were married on March 30, 2019, in Los Angeles, Calif.

from Boston Beer Co. We're not sure how you can top beer and coffee, but stay tuned. And **Barb Whitaker Overstreet** is retiring from the Potomac School and heading back to her roots in Lookout Mountain, Tenn.

Amy Opolinsky Scheetz, on the other hand, has given up the south and is living in Rockport, Mass., teaching and enjoying the ocean. She is looking for playmates, so give a shout if you end up in her direction. Since moving east, she has gotten together with both of your class correspondents (**Allison** and **Victoria**) and **Ruth Kennedy**. Definite back-to-the-future moments!

Speaking of **Victoria**, she is seeing the world this year—lots of great travel, including Machu Picchu, all of which she promises to report on for our next issue. As for me (**Allison**), I will not be retiring soon and have gone no place. But lots of Midd in my life—my current law clerk is a Midd grad and I had two Midd Kids working with me this past January. I can confidently report that if Midd students and grads were running the world, things would be in very good hands. Keep the news coming!

Mike Coughlan '87 and family sent the sad news that **Wendy Coughlan** passed away peacefully on February 12, 2024, with her family at her side. Wendy grew up in Montreal but spent most of her post-Middlebury years in Vermont. At Middlebury she was a Northern studies and biology major. After graduation, Wendy embarked on two extended stays in New Zealand and discovered Waldorf education during her travels. She enrolled at Antioch University and received an MEd in integrated learning and a certificate in Waldorf Education in 1989. She then began a 30-year career at the Lake Champlain Waldorf School in Shelburne, where she shepherded the same group of students from first through eighth grades. She then became the handwork teacher and taught every student in the school how to knit, crochet, and sew until her retirement in 2020. She was a master seamstress and her hands created endless beauty. She spent hundreds of hours lovingly crafting individual nativity sets for immediate and extended family members. She had a deep appreciation for the world and nature's gifts and was an avid gardener. It was not uncommon to receive beautiful homegrown vegetables as gifts in the summer and fall.

Wendy leaves us with the reminder to treasure the quiet rituals, small details, and simple joys of life: the cycle of the garden, the time it takes to knit one row of a cable sweater, and the blue of the eastern bluebird. Wendy is survived by her spouse Bet Dews, their three children, their other mother, and two brothers, Jerry '78 and Mike '87.

—Class Correspondents: Allison Burroughs (adburroughs@gmail.com); Victoria Seiden Gonin (victoriagonin@gmail.com).

1984

Classmates are publishing books! **Betsy Bolton** sent word that she has published a book of poems entitled *Mouth Art of the Bald-Faced Hornet.* She writes, "The collection dives deep into the ecological history of southeastern Pennsylvania, but the work is informed by lessons learned from Bob Pack and (though I never had a class with him) John Elder." Betsy teaches literature, creative writing, and environmental studies at Swarthmore College.

In 2019, **Wendy Bashant** traveled to Xi'an, China, taught 200 students, and witnessed the outbreak of COVID. She has published *The Same Bright Moon: Teaching China's New Generation during COVID.* She says, "The book explores my relationship with my Chinese students during that year of political friction and dissent. Their story, as told to me, an academic in the U.S. for over 30 years, provides a lens to compare China's and America's approach to higher education. Chinese students are a growing population at U.S. universities. They will be China's future leaders. In this book, the students' vibrant voices challenge, inspire, and bring hope for the future."

Anthony Flint writes that he is the author of *Mayor's Desk: 20 Conversations with Local Leaders Solving Global Problems*, which includes a foreword by Michael Bloomberg, former mayor of NYC, and an afterword by Angela Brooks, president of the American Planning Association. It was published in January by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in partnership with Columbia University Press. The book is a compilation of interviews with municipal chief executives from around the world, conducted over the last five years, and its publication aligned with the U.S. Conference of Mayors winter meeting, where Anthony authored the essay "The Mayors Who Aren't Burning Out" for Bloomberg CityLab. Anthony is a senior fellow at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and is the host of the podcast *Land Matters,* a contributing editor at *Land Lines* magazine, and a correspondent at Bloomberg CityLab and the *Boston Globe.*

Andrew Zehner sent this note: "In February 1984, nine members of the Class of '84 traveled to Aspen, Colo., via a Winnebago for a ski adventure. In February 2024, seven of the original nine were joined by four additional classmates and traveled again to Aspen to celebrate the 40th anniversary of that trip. Wine was consumed, vertical feet were crushed, high speeds were achieved, and four of us were joined by part-time Aspen resident **Marc Tabah** to conquer the Highlands Bowl (12,392 feet)." Friends who made the 2024 trip included **Mark Ray**, **John Hamilton**, **Bill Hathaway**, **Peter Tichansky**, **BJ Paik**, **Andrew Zehner**, **Tom Knox**, **Larry Goldstein, Jason Bacon**, **David Torres**, and **Buck Dominick**.

—Class Correspondents: Elizabeth Smith Vaccaro (elizvaccaro@gmail.com); Andrew Zehner (andrewzehner@gmail.com).

1985

REUNION CLASS

Cammy Briggs Roffe reports that she has taught 29 years at the Canterbury School in New Milford, Conn. Her responsibilities appear exhausting: teaching honors biology, ecology, marine science, and a SUPA (Syracuse University Project Advance that earns Syracuse credits) called Earth System Science. She's also the Science Department chair and director of sustainability, as well as the head JV field hockey coach. But the best part is that both of her kids teach at Canterbury as well. Cam is a math teacher after going to UConn, and Katie is an art teacher after going to MassArt. Cammy's husband, Rob, is the director of the Digital Communication, Design, and Innovation Department and teaches various computer and innovation classes. Cammy is already planning for a Vermont retirement as they bought a home in Vergennes so she can be close to Middlebury ice hockey action at the Chip.

With both kids successfully launched in Denver and NYC, **Nick Lieder** and his wife have left Ridgefield, Conn., and moved out to Hailey, Idaho, where they'll be "playing the back nine in the mountains." Nick hopes that any classmates visiting the Wood River Valley will give him a call and stop by for a visit.

Lyssa Dragone was kind enough to forward me a photo she received from a September 2023 trip to Bermuda where Stewart Hall freshmen buddies **Dave Potier**, **Paul Richardson**, **Dave Shaw**, **Mike Donovan**, **Jim Boyd**, **Jim MacKay**, and **Regan Remillard** celebrated their 60th birthdays together. The photo, which will appear in a future issue, does suggest that they were relaxed and enjoying life.

I'm sad to report the passing of **Roland Ninomaya** in April 2023. Roland was a kind soul who enjoyed a successful legal career in both San Francisco and Washington, D.C., before retirement.

Nancy Urner-Berry reports that she is still teaching math and chemistry at the Westminster School in Connecticut and looks forward to a new "career" that doesn't involve a school bell that never means the end of the day's work. They are hoping to move to Westbrook, Maine, this summer and would love to get in touch with fellow classmates in that area of New England.

—Class Correspondent: Dale Sailer (dalesailer@gmail.com).

1986

So the year that most of us will turn 60 years old is here! Let the celebrations take place, and since we were not able to get together on campus for our 35th Reunion, there have been many mini-reunions and gatherings to catch up and celebrate our 60th birthdays.

Jennifer Kemp Forelli was surprised in Florida last April when she turned 60 by **Melissa Marquardt**, **Ginny Thomas Wydler**, **Sue Gavlick Ballard**, **Lynne Beers Walters**, **Margaret Gill Sobel**, and **Heather Pierce Post**.

Bill O'Herron, **Jim Sullivan**, **Parker Gilbert**, **Scott Kirkpatrick**, **Jamie Orvis**, Parke '89 and Amy Moakley Logan '87, and **Chris** and **Bettina Thompson Stern** were all so disappointed that the 35th was canceled that they had their own reunion last October near the beach in Charleston, S.C.

—Class Correspondent: Heather Pierce Post (heatherdpierce@gmail.com).

1987

Tim Weed sent word that his latest novel, *The Afterlife Project,* will be coming out in early 2025. The plot involves a microbiologist, marooned in the wilderness of the deep future, who searches for remnants of the human race. It features a scientifically plausible mechanism for one-way time travel, a post-apocalyptic ocean crossing on a vintage sailing yacht, and lovers separated by 10 millennia of time.

—Class Correspondents: Tom Funk (tomfunk@gmail.com); Elizabeth Ryan O'Brien (obrien@bigwhoop.com).

1988

Karen Holmberg writes, "I've been living mostly on the West Coast since that long-ago graduation day. I'm currently in Oregon where I teach in Oregon State University's MFA Program in Creative Writing. I teach poetry writing, literature, and letterpress printing on large iron handpresses (any other printing nerds out there?). I write and publish poetry and essays, but recently ventured into young adult fiction and my debut novel, *The Collagist*, came out in April from Regal House/Fitzroy books. I'd love to hear from any other far-flung classmates!"

Check out a photo of classmates on page 59.

—Class Correspondents: Anya Puri Brunnick (abrunnick@gmail.com); Claire Gwatkin Jones (gwatkojones@gmail.com).

1989

—Class Correspondent: George Baxter (george.baxter@me.com).

1990

REUNION CLASS

Congratulations to **Alicia Johnston,** who was recently appointed as an assistant professor of pediatrics at the faculty of medicine at Harvard University!

Be sure to put our Reunion on your calendar for June 6–8, 2025!

—Class Correspondents: Doug Meyer (pdougm@aol.com); Elizabeth Toder (eatoder@gmail.com).

1991

Barbie Robinson is the executive director of Harris County Public Health in Houston, Texas. She writes, "I have served as the executive director for the past three years and before that I was the director of health services of a Bay Area county in California. Harris County is the third largest county in Texas and a lot of innovative work is being done to build and strengthen the social safety net infrastructure here, from our newly launched Uplift Harris County—a guaranteed income program focusing on the residents experiencing deep poverty—to our ACCESS Harris County Initiative designed to coordinate care for vulnerable populations with needs across safety-net systems."

Matt Leafstedt reports, "I am currently living in a small Swiss village above Lac Leman between Geneva and Lausanne. I've exchanged the Vermont black and white cows for the Swiss brown and white version, and instead of cheddar, it is Gruyère. I

remain on the international path that I started at Midd and am leading the European organization for one of Medtronic's businesses but speaking more French than Russian these days. My eldest daughter works in London, elder son works in Chicago, and the two younger kids remain with me in Switzerland. I have deconnected from most of my social media so anyone who wants to connect can reach out on my private email at leafstedtme@gmail.com."

Ray Strong says, "After moving to Houston many years ago, I am spending more time in NYC and would love to see more Midd people. I also had a great time sneaking in a terrific ski session with **John Climaco** in Park City over spring break."

Michelle Graber Bergland writes, "I live in Medfield, Mass., with my husband, John, and three children. Daughter Carolyn graduated from Skidmore College in May, daughter Catherine finished her sophomore year at Midd, and son William will be in the Middlebury Class of 2029 (doing a gap year before starting). My husband and I met in Pearsons in summer 1991 when he started the German summer language program, so it's really fun to go back to campus togeth-

er for family weekends and visits. We are thrilled that we'll get an extra few years of this. I had a mini-reunion with **Jen Paris Capute** and **Robin Waites** in Middlebury over Homecoming weekend in October 2022 (feels like it was just a few months ago). Jen's daughter and mine were both playing Ultimate Frisbee. It was a blast! On the work front, I am chief people officer at a real estate investment firm based in Boston."

Drew Smith writes, "On my side, big changes are coming. After nearly six years of life in Gran Canaria (Canary Islands/Spain), we are moving back to Montreal in a few months. My daughter will attend school there for the next two years (in Quebec it is called CEGEP) before deciding on university. We'll be in Montreal for at least that long, but after that, maybe back to Europe somewhere? I'm still competing in triathlons; Gran Canaria has been the perfect training environment and I'll wrap it up with another Ironman in a couple of months—this one on the neighboring island of Lanzarote. You can reach me at smith.andrew347@gmail.com."

Scott Krugman sent this update: "**Lynn** (**Holley**) and I continue to live in Baltimore and get to see Patrick '88 and **Kerstin Carlson Le Floch** occasionally at breweries halfway between Virginia and Baltimore. Our oldest son, Daniel '21, graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health last spring and has started a PhD in anthropology at Brown. Our second son, Ryan, graduated from St. Lawrence University this spring and is heading for a master's in climate and society at Columbia University this fall. Lynn is the president of two nonprofit boards, including one for an organization we work with in Copan Ruinas Honduras (Casita Copan) where we have been doing mission work since 2014. We just returned from this year's trip, when we dedicated a new medical clinic for the Chorti Mayan communities, which opens this summer. In February I was named the inaugural senior associate dean of the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences Regional Medical Campus at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, where I continue to practice pediatrics on top of running the clinical programs for third- and fourth-year medical students. **Jeff McMahan**, **Tom Chambers**, **Jim Nida**, **Matt Warren**, **Greg Tulonen**, and I continue weekly Wednesday Zoom hearts games, which we started at the beginning of the pandemic."

Marcy Withington says, "I am the CFO and interim COO at the Guggenheim Museum in NYC. My older daughter was a freshman at Cornell this year and my younger daughter was a freshman at Deerfield Academy. Being an empty-nester has been bad for my wallet but good for my running—I ran 3:19 at the 2023 NYC Marathon (PR!)."

—Class Correspondent: Andrew Resnik (resnikandrew@gmail.com).

1992

Check out a photo of classmates on page 75.

—Class Correspondents: David Boyle (davemboyle@gmail.com); Leslie Cone Pagnotta (lesliepagnotta917@gmail.com).

1993

Laura Ward Voigt was sad to miss everyone at last year's Reunion. She and husband Andy are still practicing medicine in Pittsburgh. She hit a career milestone by practicing with the same group for 20 years, with special interests in nutrition and behavioral health. Her oldest daughter, Katie, is at the University of Pittsburgh studying business, and younger daughter Sarah, a junior in high school, enjoys playing cello with the Pittsburgh Youth Orchestra, which did a summer tour in Portugal in 2023.

Dave Salisbury (aka Salty) lives with his wife, Leigh, outside of Richmond, Va. His daughter was a first-year at Midd (Class of 2027) this year, where she played Ultimate Frisbee, climbed trees, and walked trails. His son is in high school, plays a bit of basketball, and hits yard sales to resell stuff online for fun, profit, and to keep goods in the circular economy. Last summer Dave/Salty had a great time at Reunion with his daughter and the strong showing from Stewart second floor (**John Linder**, **Jon Rothstein**, **Chris Piehler**, **Chad Bryant**, **Emilio Nunez**, and more) after rescuing a sloth in the Amazon rainforest, a feat you can watch here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IG8UUNBjjKE. You can also read about it on page 51.

Dave explains that the reason he was in the Amazon rainforest is because he was traveling on behalf of the Upper Amazon Conservancy (UAC), NASA, and the Univ. of Richmond, where he is an associate professor of geography, environment, and sustainability. Also a NASA subject matter expert on Indigenous peoples, he was collaborating with UAC and the region's Indigenous peoples to facilitate a greater understanding of the impacts of climate change, and scientific storytelling. The director of UAC is **Chris Fagan** and Dave serves on the board with classmate **Michael Walker**. Check out the great work being done by UAC at upperamazon.com.

—Class Correspondent: John Linder (john.linder92@gmail.com).

1994

—Class Correspondents: Mary Strife Cairns (mcairns94@gmail.com); Gene Swift (geneswift@gmail.com).

1995

REUNION CLASS

Patrick Donovan '97 sent news about **Fahti Khosrow-Shahi Self.** "I love reading about the great things our alums are up to, and I wanted to call out attention to one who is doing amazing things. Fahti is the CEO of Ceek Women's Health, which is reinventing women's health care (specifically, areas that are stuck in the 1800s!)." Check out a sidebar about Fahti on page 62.

Please put our Reunion date on your calendar: June 6–8, 2025!

—Class Correspondent: Julie Moriarty McDonough (juliemcdonough@gmail.com).

1996

—Class Correspondent: Humberto Garcia-Sjogrim (humbertogs@gmail.com).

1997

Amy Wlodarski sent news: "I was named as a 2024 Guggenheim Fellow, an award which will allow me to devote a year to writing my next book on the international reception of Viktor Ullmann's Holocaust opera, *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*. I remember first seeing the opera at Middlebury, which sponsored a performance of the work directed by Robert DeCormier. It started me on the path to my current career as a musicologist, and I am eternally grateful."

—Class Correspondents: Jennifer Gelb Carbee (jcarbee@gmail.com); Jackie Pelton Hoglund (jackiehoglund@gmail.com).

1998

Carol McMurrich and **Greg Reynolds** had the BEST TIME at our 25th Reunion. "Thank you so much to everyone who made it happen. We think we're the first class couple to have a Midd Kid—son Liam just finished his sophomore year and has loved every second of it. Three sisters Aoife (17), Fiona (13), and Maeve (12) love campus life and we're all thrilled to have a built-in excuse to head to Vermont whenever we miss him!" They're still living in Western Mass—Greg is teaching French at the local high school and Carol is running Empty Arms Bereavement Support, a New England pregnancy and infant loss support and education collaborative. They say, "So fun to see everyone at Reunion and we hope to do it again in five years!"

Last fall, **Paul Rosenthal** joined the law firm Faegre Drinker's business litigation practice group as a partner in the Florham Park, N.J., office. He was previously serving as a partner at Fox Rothschild in New Jersey.

Filmmaker **Ben Kahn** served as the first assistant director on the movie *Past Lives*, which was nominated in the Oscar categories of best picture and best original screenplay. He says the task of first assistant director is often called the hardest job on a film set. His duty is to take the creative desires of screenwriters and directors and overlay that with practical realities, from what kind of gear is needed to how many days the crew has to shoot. Check out *Past Lives* if you haven't seen it!

—Class Correspondents: Katie Whittlesey Comstock (katiecomstock3@gmail.com); Nate Johnson (natejohn98@gmail.com); Shruthi Mahalingaiah (shruthi@hsph.harvard.edu).

1999

I hope you had the chance to make it back to campus for our 25th Reunion!

—Class Correspondent: Peter Steinberg (captfun99@gmail.com).

2000

REUNION CLASS

Congratulations to **Claire Casey,** who is the new AARP Foundation president! A press release notes, "As president, Casey will lead the foundation's strategic direction and efforts to achieve its audacious vision of a country free of poverty, where no older person feels vulnerable, through bold, innovative solutions that help struggling older adults build economic opportunity and social connectedness."

Congratulations are also in order for **Carly Cais**, who founded her go-to market agency RevvSpark in 2021. Carly writes, "We help SaaS and app startups launch in the market, find users, grow their customer base, and scale. We work primarily with venture capital companies and accelerators, to support their portfolio companies, as well as directly with funded startups before they have hired their first marketer. We are WBENC certified as a Woman-Owned Business and ranked as a Clutch Top B2B Company." Carly has published her first book, *Startup to Scaleup: $100K Growth Secrets of SaaS Founders*. The book became a #1 New Release on Amazon and hit #1 in multiple categories. I (**Jennifer**) will certainly need to take marketing tips from Carly when my own book, *One Tick Stops the Clock*, launches from Legacy Book Press this September.

What news do you have to share? I'd love to hear from you!

—Class Correspondent: Jennifer Crystal (jennifercrystalwriter@gmail.com).

2001

Lisa Mase, who says she is a nutritionist, herbalist, and food sovereignty activist from Italy living in central Vermont, sent word that she has written a book called *The Culinary Pharmacy: Intuitive Eating, Ancestral Healing, and Your Personal Nutrition Plan*. If you'd like to learn more about it, go to harmonized-living.com.

Jeff Price is keeping busy doing his best George Plimpton impersonation as the recently announced editor in chief of upstart *Brazenhead Review*. Named for the erstwhile famous secret bookstore on New York City's Upper East Side, where the likes of Lucy Sante, Porochista Khakpour, Jonathan Lethem, James Franco, and George Bisacca '77 were known to mingle late into the night, the print review publishes twice a year, and features prose and poetry by a mix of established and rising talent. It has a distinctly wide-ranging American sensibility, and is unstuffy and easy on the eyes, in a letter-pressed, handmade edition of 300. The letter-pressed covers were made at the Ruth Stone House near Brandon, Vt. Generous donors to the review include **Boriana Karastoyanova**, **Ethan Feuer**, and **Joel Hugenberger**.

Peter Nestor writes, "Greetings from London. I moved here four years ago to be with my expanding family, now two stepdaughters (12 and 14) and a two-year-old daughter. I'm working in the business and human rights field, focused on the pharmaceutical industry, after eight years at a non-profit organization. I'd love to meet up with others in London—please do let me know if you're ever in town."

Last fall, **Peter Dixon** joined the faculty at Columbia University as an associate professor of practice in negotiation and conflict resolution at the School of Professional Studies. Earlier in the year, he was up at Middlebury to give a talk and speak with students participating in Midd's new Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation, where he also serves on the external advisory board.

Adil Husain writes, "Roohi and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary recently at our home in Potomac, Md. We had friends, food, and drink from the U.S., China, Brazil, Singapore, Pakistan, and Austria—some of the places where we've lived. **Adeeb Mahmud**, James Meader '02, and **Henry Flores** joined us for the celebration." Congratulations to Adil and Roohi!

Speaking of **Henry Flores,** he was profiled in an article in the *New York Times* as the founder of the Classic Watch Club. Over the years he has been collecting watches, mainly vintage ones. He founded the club in 2019, figuring he might as well assemble a group of aficionados and experts that can help each other navigate the minefield of vintage watch collecting. The group meets twice monthly, once online and once in person. The members really appreciate Henry's warmth and leadership.

Check out a photo of classmates on page 75.

—Class Correspondents: Leslie Fox Arnould (lesliearnould@gmail.com); Zach Bourque (zacharybourque@gmail.com).

2002

Unfortunately, the Class of 2002 has had more than its share of terrible news over the past year. We are extremely devastated to report the

loss of classmates **Adam George, David Livingston**, and **Andrew Strong**. All three were incredibly talented and loved souls in this world and it feels both unfair and wrong that we have to report that they are no longer with us. There is no doubt that our classmates will feel these losses for some time and that we are now more inspired than ever to stay connected, to live life to the fullest, and to honor their memories in the years ahead. It feels even more important that we all stay in touch and so we are grateful for your updates that you continue to share with us.

Sarah "Brooksie" Minardi reports from the East End of Long Island that life is in full swing. For anyone with plans to be out in the Hamptons, whether for fun or for real estate purposes, reach out to Sarah via her details on Saunders.com.

Robyn Cook and Mike Mazzotta '03 are enjoying all that Portland, Ore., and the surrounding Pacific Northwest has to offer. They've enjoyed camping trips with Jason Simmons '03 and family and have enjoyed seeing Baker Lyon '06.

Jesse Holland has directed three horror features that have all found distribution and audiences. He has settled into a career in entertainment marketing, working as a motion graphics artist, art director, writer, and editor.

Sean Hoskins is still actively pursuing dance. He was recently a Maggie Allesee Choreography Award finalist (for the third time) and produces shape // matter, an annual outdoor showcase of regional dance in downtown Ann Arbor, Mich. He also works as a multimedia consultant at the University of Michigan and last August joined Amy Chavasse (former faculty at Midd) to perform an improvised dance inspired by the life and work of the late Peter Schmitz (also former faculty member). Riffing on the TAM (Trail Around Middlebury), Sean created the 17-mile TARA—Trail ARound Ann Arbor—that he's run twice. He also loves strengthening Middlebury connections in Ann Arbor and started a subchapter of alumni in the Ann Arbor area.

After a tour in the Navy hanging with submariners, **Peter Mancini** settled in Guilford, Conn., where he has fostered a career in obstetric anesthesiology at Yale.

Eniko Simon has relocated to Milan, Italy, with husband Daniel and children Peter (5) and Rosie (9). She accepted a new job teaching high school history at the American School of Milan in August 2023.

George Stallings has spent the last year building and refining a small urban backyard astronomical observatory six miles from the Capitol Building just outside of Washington, D.C. He learned to write code so that he could better automate the rotation of the dome for maximum astronomical laziness! The results for solar system objects were always going to be as good as one can get from a rural location, but the results for deep sky objects in such heavy light pollution had been a question mark but have been really promising.

Ted Walker chases his kids, 9 and 11 years old, around Houston's baseball and softball fields while working in foundation relations at Rice University. He has greatly enjoyed visits with **Seth Kroop** and **Dan Colonno** and wife Melissa (Thacker) '05 and their families in the last few years.

Eleanor Tutweiler Macken is teaching English composition and literature at a community college in Asheville, N.C. Her husband is also a teacher so along with their kids, 10 and 13 years old, they enjoy summer road trips out west to hike and boat or head back to Vermont to visit friends.

Stefanie Beyer Schmidt launched a new sustainable children's e-commerce clothing brand on April 15—check it out on social: @figforkids.

As always, thanks for your updates to round out the news—we couldn't do this without you! Please continue to write in with your life updates: middlebury02@gmail.com. We hope to hear from everyone!

—Class Correspondents: Meg Roach Booth (megbooth5@gmail.com); Kara Leibel Evans (kblevans30@gmail.com).

2003

We were both sorry to miss our official class Reunion last summer. We decided to mark the milestone by gathering with our mutual friend Jack Thurston '02 for a laughter-filled weekend in Atlanta last January. That wonderful weekend visit made us just nostalgic enough to volunteer to be class notes correspondents for the foreseeable future. We would love to hear from you, hear some great Reunion stories, and learn about new updates in your lives.

First a few updates from us. **John Morgenstern** lives in Atlanta, Ga., where he works as the copyright and scholarly communications librarian at Emory University. He lives with his partner, Daniel, a history professor at Emory, as well as their dog (Henry) and cat (Max). Summer travels to the UK last year allowed John to visit with his dear friend and resident Londoner **Juan Peña**.

Lisa Jasinski started a new job as president of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest, a small nonprofit that supports innovation, shared programming, and leadership development across 14 private liberal arts colleges. "I'm having a great time getting to know Chicago and getting home to San Antonio to see my film professor husband Patrick and orange cat (Oliver). After seven years of research, I finally published my book, *Stepping Away: Returning to the Faculty after Senior Academic Leadership* with Rutgers University Press. In 2022, after many pandemic delays, I had the thrilling honor of being a Fulbright Specialist in Finland, a program I highly recommend to scholars and professionals seeking to share their expertise with partners abroad."

Pascale LaFountain writes that she is in her 12th year as a professor of French and German at Montclair State University in New Jersey. She often runs into other Middlebury alumni at the German Studies Association, including Ian Fleishman '06, Curtis Swope '02, and **Rick Lutjens**. She also follows the work of David Gramling '99, whom she calls "a major German studies powerhouse." She says it has been a special delight to have had three students complete Middlebury's German summer school recently.

After moving to Las Vegas in 2018, **Sally Olson**, along with her partner, Ned Mills, developed the award-winning show *Carpenters Legacy* and began performing it off the strip. Last year they

CELEBRATIONS

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6

1 On June 24, 2023, Taylor Virtue '15 married Nick Andonian '17 in Stowe, Vt., with many enthusiastic friends and family celebrating with the couple: Will Ernst '17, Drew Gordon '17, Audrey Ellen '17, Ted Virtue '82, Dani Shaw Virtue '82, Linley Shaw '17, Sayre White '15, the newlyweds, Jake Nidenberg '16, Dani DeMarco '13, Charlotte Michaelcheck '15, (second row) Matt Virtue '10, Parker Hurst '14, Brendan Gallagher '14, Joel Blockowicz '15, Anton Connolly '16, Ivor Jackson '16, Joey Zelkowitz '17, Carter Talgo '15, Lexi DeMarco '15, Bea Eppler '17, Cedric Rhodes '17, Addison Pierce '17, Melissa Cummings '17.5, Charlotte Dewey '15, Olivia Jurkowitz '17, Hailey Cosseboom '17, JP Miller '17, Allie Hooley '17, Jack DeFrino '17, (third row) Danny Finta '15, Isabel van der Linden '17, Albert Giroux '15, Chris Peterson '13, Elizabeth Bernhard Peterson '15, Adrian Kerester '15, Nic Strain '15, Gina Puccinelli '15, Dave Murray '15, Zoe Loveman '15, Katie Dewey '15, Marea Hatheway '15, Ben Joers '17, Katie Ritter '15, Anson Notman '16.5, Ted Benge '16, Henry Pendergast '16, Michael Ford '15, Alex Elron '17, Andrew McGrath '17, Phil Skayne '17, Grant Dewey '84, Will Fleming '17, Michael Brady '17, (fourth row) Charlie Kunze '15, Yianni Grupen '15, Brendan Rankowitz '15, Julia Hatheway '17.5, Timmy Patricia '16, Ellie Lovering '16, Matt Leach '15, Caroline Walters '16.5, Sam Redmond '15, Cam Romoff '17, Jory Makin '17, Quincy Nichols '17, Remo Plunkett '17, Jake Schneider '17, Gabe Weissmann '15, Olivia Tabah '15, Hunter Huebsch '15, Jon Hurvitz '17, Will Reeve '14, Colleen Sullivan Seely '15, Hannah Deoul Ford '14, Deidre Miller Greenberg '14, Maggie Caputi '16, Brian Currie '83, Chris Gagne '82, and Jeff Johnson '82.

2 Sarah Short, MA French '13 married Joseph Hutyra on August 8, 2021, at Wild Basin Lodge in Allenspark, Colo. Her dear friend Adam Henson, MA French '13 (third from left) served as a "bridesman."

3 On June 17, 2023, Ben Wagner '13 and Ava Sanayei celebrated their wedding in Hartford, Conn., with several Midd friends in attendance: Shannon Muscatello Atkeson '13, the newlyweds, Laura Heaberlin '12.5, (second row) Dan Tenner '13, Dan Egol '13, Anna Esten '13, Christian Schoning '13, Meade Atkeson '15, Taylor Smith '12, Raj Anand '14, and Tyler Pepin '13.

4 Danielle Fahoome '13 married Charlotte Berschback on May 29, 2022, in Traverse City, Mich., surrounded by Middlebury friends and family: (all '13 unless noted) Jane Loria, Della Cummings, Julianna Gardner, Drew Vollmer, Samantha Lee, Mackenzie Stewart, the newlyweds, Randy Mahoney '83, Alex McKeon, Rachel Madding, Lucy Wagner, and Rick Faubert '92.

5 Jigar Bhakta '18 married Julia Pearl on July 15, 2023, in Hudson Gardens in the town of Littleton, Colo. Friends and significant others who attended included Eric Wang (Midd partner), Tamri Matiashvili '18, Katherine Zhou Rubinstein (Midd spouse), David Rubinstein '18, Caroline O'Boy '21.5, the newlyweds, (second row) Alex Weil (Midd partner), Phil Hoxie '17.5, Eena Lim (Midd partner), Aaron Low '18.5, Will Case '18, and Shushan Ginosyan.

6 Casey Park '17 and James Winebrake were married on June 10, 2023, in Aspen, Colo. Middlebury friends who joined them in the celebration included (all '17 unless noted) Caitlyn Meagher, Theodora Yoch, Francesca Suarez, Rebecca Cohen, the newlyweds, Nicole Hoehle, Sarah Breckinridge '18, Martina Berger, and Kia Saint-Louis.

CLASS ACTS

completed a 13-month residency in the Modern Showrooms at Alexis Park Resort Hotel then reopened on the strip in the V Theater at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino last fall. In April, they took a break from Las Vegas to bring the show to the Paramount Theater in Rutland, Vt., Sally's hometown.

Rounding out the updates, **Aaron Steen** reached out to say that he lives in New Haven, Conn., with his wife, Sasha, and their two sons, Zev (4) and Avi (2). He is a dermatologist and Mohs surgeon in a local private practice.

We heard that **Michael Hatch** joined the Trinity College faculty in January 2024 as an associate professor of fine arts. His scholarship covers Chinese art from the 18th to the 21st centuries.

Finally, **Rika Kido**, a partner at Shulman Bastian Friedman & Bui LLP in Irvine, Calif., was selected for inclusion in Rising Stars of Southern California in *Super Lawyers Magazine*.

We close out this column by sharing the sad news that **Rick Barfuss** died on August 2, 2023. According to his obituary, he was living in Gladstone, N.J., and was the vice president and senior investment fixed income strategist for Peapack Private, the wealth management division of Peapack-Gladstone Bank. In his free time, he was an active volunteer with his son's ice hockey team and active in his church. While at Middlebury, Richard majored in economics and was a member of the swim team. We send our deepest condolences to wife Megan and children Ricky and Riley.

—Class Correspondents: Lisa Jasinski (lmjasinski@gmail.com); John Morgenstern (jdmorgens@gmail.com).

2004

Agatha Vaaler sent in a belated photo of her wedding to Josh Kazdan on March 30, 2019, in Los Angeles (see page 75). They live in LA with their two children, Stella (3.5) and Arno (7 mos.).

John Oliver, who was formerly the director of community education at Centerpoint School in Winooski, Vt., was tapped last summer to serve as the interim principal at Edmunds Middle School in the Burlington, Vt., School District for this past school year. He has spent the last 19 years as an educator and administrator in Vermont.

Last year **Audrey Laning Ingram** published her debut novel, *The River Runs South,* which explores love, loss, and the courage of starting over fresh. Audrey lives in Virginia with her husband and three children.

—Class Correspondents: Athenia (Tina) Fischer-Rodney (atheniarodney@gmail.com); Drew Pugsley (drew.pugsley@gmail.com).

2005
REUNION CLASS

After 10 years as mayor of Swisher, Iowa, **Christopher Taylor** retired from municipal government in January. He has started pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

Maija Cheung has joined the global surgery NGO Kids Operating Room and their commercial subsidiary Global Hospital as their chief medical officer, helping execute comprehensive healthcare infrastructure projects in low-resource settings to make life-saving surgery available to every patient. She continues to hold an adjunct appointment at Yale and operates at the VA Hospital while cheering on husband Brian Hamm '02 and the Yale baseball team.

Jason Lockhart and Jessica Vogt (Purdue '11) are happy to announce the birth of their first son, Asher Lynn Lockhart, on December 19, 2023, in San Francisco.

In February, **Jasmin Johnson** met up with Gruia Badescu '07, Naomi Haefner '07, and Alex Hunter '07 at Naomi and Alex's home in St. Gallen, Switzerland. The small Swiss crew meets from time to time, and the get-together is always full of laughter and good food (thanks to master chef Alex). Jasmin also had the chance to catch up with Chris Lam '10 and Glennis Gill Swinson '90 in Brisbane, Australia, in January. Chris is a veterinary cardiologist and Glennis is a human/disability rights lawyer in the city. Adding much to the fun evening on the banks of the Brisbane River was Chris's wife, Tess, and daughter Emmeline. Chris—always the foodie—chose an amazing restaurant!

And in global news: we're super proud of cycling dynamites **Ted King** and **Lea Davison,** both of whom have been named as part of the 50 most influential people in American cycling by Escape Collective, and both of whom live in Vermont! Whoa! **Ted** says, "I'm not racing nearly as much as I did in a previous lifetime when I was living in Europe and racing the World Tour peloton. The gravel scene still keeps me plenty busy these days. When I'm not traveling to gravel events around the country, I'm always eager to spend time at home with my wife, Laura, and our two kids in Richmond, Vt." Ted was named to the list as someone who helped redefine what being a pro rider is by building his brand, his fan bases, and his communication networks to give fans direct access to him, something unheard of before him.

Lea says, "I retired from a 20-year professional mountain bike career at the end of the 2022 season—a career highlighted by competing in two Olympic Games (London 2012 and Rio 2016), placing 11th and 7th respectively; silver and bronze Mountain Bike World Championship medals; third in the 2015 World Cup Overall; and several U.S National Championship titles. I gave a TEDx Boston talk about competitive collaboration and the pursuit of three spots for the USA in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. I currently live in southern Vermont with my wife, Frazier Blair. I'm now pursuing public speaking, race broadcasting, coaching, and a life outside of competitive sport. It's been so much fun!" Lea, along with sister Sabra '07, was named for starting Little Bellas, the national nonprofit committed to helping girls realize their full potential through mountain biking. Go team 2005!

Emma Sabiiti writes, "After a wonderful five years as a correspondent, I will be stepping down and passing the warm torch to **Anywhere Sikochi**. I have enjoyed working closely with the amazing **Jazzy Jay** and Sara Marshall and hearing from the diverse and vibrant 2005 class voices. Wish Siko the best. Forward and onward."

—Class Correspondents: Jasmin Johnson (johnson.jasmin@gmail.com); Emma Sabiiti (esabiiti@gmail.com).

2006

—Class Correspondents: Alex Casnocha (alexander.casnocha@gmail.com); Jack Donaldson (jack.c.donaldson@gmail.com).

2007

Congratulations to **Sabra Davison Connell** who, along with sister Lea '05, was named as one of 50 of the most influential people in American cycling by Escape Collective. The sisters were named for starting Little Bellas, the national nonprofit committed to helping girls realize their full potential through mountain biking.

Many friends from Middlebury gathered for the wedding of Nora Chan to **Sam Jesse** on April 23, 2022, at Fleetwood Farm Winery in Leesburg, Va. The couple has since moved to Bethesda, Md., and welcomed a baby girl, June.

—Class Correspondent: N. Bhatia (middlebury2007@gmail.com).

2008

Posse alum **Jake Moreno Coplon** has become the new COO at the Posse Foundation, after working two years as chief executive officer at America Needs You. He is happy to be back with the organization after his own positive experiences with it.

—Class Correspondents: Laura Lee Mittelman (lauramittelman@gmail.com); Jee Yeon Park (jeeyeonp@gmail.com).

2009

Hello from D.C. It's your freshly minted class correspondent! I hope you made it back to campus this summer for Reunion. Don't hesitate to send me your updates (even if they feel old!).

Your classmates love hearing what's going on with you and your loved ones.

I must first catch up on sad news from last year: Three of our classmates passed in 2023. We lost two classmates in February, **Benjamin Liang** and **Pooja Shahani**. And **Andrew Ward** died in March.

Jeanine Buzali writes, "Pooja passed away on February 21, 2023. She is deeply missed by her family and extensive community of friends and collaborators all over the world. Pooja was a beneficiary of numerous scholarships throughout her academic journey. These opportunities furthered her education and imbued in her a profound sense of gratitude and a drive to pay it forward. In her memory, a memorial scholarship fund was set up to empower minorities through the arts. Pooja believed in the transformative power of continuous growth and self-improvement and found in art therapy a unique medium to affect this transformation."

In other news: **Chris Mutty** and wife Peg welcomed their third son, Morrison, to the family last year. Chris was also elected to Town Meeting in Brookline, Mass. He also founded a youth rugby nonprofit in greater Boston. Most recently, Chris put his startup on hold to take on a new role as the executive director of the Brookline Chamber of Commerce.

Starrett Berry and Shannon Bunchman were married on June 11, 2023, in Vergennes, Vt., at the Basin Harbor Club. They got to celebrate alongside **Ana Carolina Guerrero**, **Geoffrey Edwards**, **Elizabeth Roughead Scheuermann**, and Dominique Thompson Hopkins '04. Their photographer was the esteemed Ellen Sargent '07. "But most importantly, we got our marriage license in Middlebury," Starrett wrote.

Rowan Braybrook married Christopher Browning in February 2024. The couple opted for a family ceremony at the local planetarium, which they considered the next best (family-approved) option to eloping out in the woods. Rowan has been working as the program director for a Seattle-based nonprofit that promotes sustainable forestry practices in the Pacific Northwest, and she was recently elected to the international board of the Forest Stewardship Council.

Jackie Arthur-Montagne joined the faculty of the University of Virginia as assistant professor of classics. She now has a small farm in Charlottesville and is trying to combine her two dreams of teaching ancient Greek and becoming a cowgirl.

Sarah Hatfield and Michael Thompson '07 were married on May 6, 2023, in Providence, RI. The Rev. Jackie Kirby, an Episcopal priest and chaplain at St. George's School in Newport, R.I., from which Sarah graduated, officiated the ceremony at the First Unitarian Church of Providence and the reception followed at the Hope Club. See a photo on page 75.

Pianist Diana Fanning '71 sent the news that **Andrew Throdahl** made it to the final round of the International Competition for Outstanding Amateur Pianists. "At the start, there were 100 pianists selected from all over the world to come to Paris to compete. After the first round, Andrew was told that he played so well that he could skip the quarterfinals and proceed directly to the semifinals. Then he made it to the finals, and he came in second! One of the pieces on the final program was Ravel's 'Scarbo,' a work he studied with me at Middlebury. I am so proud of him!" Andrew now lives in NYC, where he is a marketing professional for Verizon. Diana feels it's wonderful he can maintain his piano artistry at such a high level while holding a full-time job. His talent and commitment are extraordinary.

Cully Cavness appeared on *60 Minutes* last year, talking about his company Crusoe Energy Systems, which installs power generation systems to utilize gas produced at oil wells that would otherwise "flare" and just burn off into the atmosphere. The *60 Minutes* program was also interviewing Gov. Mark Gordon '79 of Wyoming, who is emerging as a leader trying to promote climate-friendly energy projects, starting in his own state.

Xander Manshel has published a book, *Writing Backwards: Historical Fiction and the Reshaping of the American Canon,* with Columbia University Press. He also appeared on the podcast *On the Media,* talking about the influence of literary prizes and the growing prominence of historical fiction in what is accepted as canon,

especially by authors of color. He is an assistant professor of English at McGill University in Montreal.

For the past decade, **Stephen Heck**, a marine ecologist, has been studying and working to conserve carbon-storing eelgrass meadows off the coast of Long Island. **Haik Kavookjian** made a short film about his work for the Nature Conservancy's seagrass restoration project. Check it out on YouTube!

Jessica Campbell sent the news that her first scholarly monograph is being published this year by Ohio University Press. She is an independent literary scholar, who researches fairy tales, Victorian fiction, and the history of representations of queer desire between women. She lives in Seattle.

Jess Jong and Brian Murff welcomed baby girl Madeleine in March.

Finally, my update: Emily Culp 'll and I welcomed a baby boy this spring! I'm currently off from my usual editorial duties at Axios Media, on parental leave. In January, I got to chat all things journalism with the Midd D.C. interns for their J-term stint. Always a treat! Until next time...

—Class Correspondent: Ryan Kellett (ryan.kellett@gmail.com).

2010

REUNION CLASS

Bianca Franqui is living with her partner in Brooklyn. She decided to move away from contact sports and swapped rugby for powerlifting.

Kyle and **H. Kaye Merriman Howard** recently finalized the adoption of their young sons (ages four and six) from the Massachusetts foster care system. H. Kaye also changed jobs to lead Per Scholas Greater Boston, the local campus of a national nonprofit that is advancing economic equity and changing the face of technology through tuition-free IT skills training.

Sarah Buck moved to Maine, where she lives in the cabin her grandparents built in 1960. She lives there with her husband, who is a chef, and her two dogs and two cats. Sarah is the chief programs officer at a national nonprofit, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, which provides training and capacity building to small, rural, and tribal communities in all 50 states and the U.S. territories in the areas of water, sanitation, and economic opportunity.

These days, **Elissa Bullion** lives in central Oregon with her husband, Nate. She is an archaeologist for the state of Oregon, after spending about 10 years in academia getting a PhD and chasing a professor job. They just bought a house last year and get to do a ton of skiing and biking.

Lisa Gretebeck Weltzien writes that she and Alec '08 are currently living in Munich for Alex's work as a Foreign Service officer at the U.S. Consulate. They welcomed Arlo Kotaro Weltzien to their family in December 2023, and they plan to move to Vancouver, Canada, in August 2025. Along for the ride are Choko, their "diplomutt," and her cat brother Nixie, their "catache." Last fall they had a mini-reunion in Munich with Daniel Honberg '08, Douglas McRae '08, Tristan Axelrod '08, and Kevin Ng '08.

—Class Correspondents: Alice Ford (alicemarieford@gmail.com); Oscar Loyo (loyo.oscar@gmail.com).

2011

Congratulations to **Brad Becker-Parton**, who was recognized for his body of work and commitment to creative producing when he received the 2024 Sundance Institute | Amazon MGM Studios Producer Award for fiction. The film he produced, *Stress Positions,* was part of the 2024 Sundance Film Festival in the U.S. Dramatic Competition. He is a producer at Seaview, a New York–based film and theater production company.

—Class Correspondent: Sam Parnell (Midd2011@gmail.com).

2012

We (**Sara Cohen** and **Paige Keren**) would love to hear from you, our classmates! Please drop us a note at any time throughout the year to send us your updates and keep in touch. We love hearing from you!

—Class Correspondents: Sara Cohen (srcohen90@gmail.com); Paige Keren (pkeren12@gmail.com).

2013

In memoriam from his close friends: **Robert "Robby" Carlyle Carpenter** was a graduate of the Class of 2013. At Midd, Robby excelled in all traditional senses of the term—he was a top student, graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, and he led the varsity golf team. But the most remarkable things about Robby aren't listed among his academic or athletic accolades: his strength of character, warmth of friendship, generosity of spirit, energy, and tenacity.

As part of the Middlebury community, Robby cultivated deep and meaningful relationships. He became a model for so many of us on how to *be* in the world: how to live with integrity, how to love and consider others, how to respect oneself. He led with vulnerability, demonstrating a comfort in his own skin that inspired others to practice their own self-acceptance.

He served as a source of guidance, never shy to offer counsel or encouragement to friends grappling with difficult coursework, career questions, or romantic pursuits. He showed up for the ones he loved, be it from sports field stands, theater seats or, after graduation, the other end of the phone line.

Robby held court in all the quintessential Middlebury spots—crowding hallmates into his Battell dorm room; flagging down passersby on the first floor of "the lib"; luxuriating over a three-course weekend breakfast in Ross or Proctor; or cavorting in the corner of the Grille, sharing a plate of his treasured "mozz sticks." And he was hard to miss, ambling down College Street, instantly identifiable by his tall, lanky frame, his floppy mop of blond hair, and his generous laugh. A run-in with Robby on campus offered instant warmth and comfort; to be on the receiving end of his knowing smile was to feel utterly understood and at home.

In 2021, Robby was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. For two-and-a-half years, he and his loved ones fought the grueling disease. Throughout this fight, Robby demonstrated tremendous courage and understanding. In true Robby fashion, he also continued to invest in his community of loved ones: he showed up for our life milestones, and he took care to keep us apprised of his health and well-being. Robby was levelheaded, and he didn't mince words; with bravery and poise, he talked openly of death's possibility with many of us. And yet none of us were prepared to lose him.

Robby passed away on the night of Saturday, April 6, 2024. He was surrounded by those he loved most in this world: his wife Emily McKelvey Carpenter, his sister Lily Carpenter-Israel, and his parents Wendy and Steve Carpenter-Israel—all beloved, honorary members of our Middlebury community. His death has left a painful hole in the lives of so many.

Cancer took a tremendous physical and emotional toll on Robby, but it was just one small piece of his extraordinary life. Even in his final years, while contending with this disease, Robby continued to excel in his professional career. He and his wife Emily grew their years-long partnership into a beautiful marriage. Together, they created a full life in Brooklyn, N.Y., where Robby and their dog, Ollie, came to love the quiet respite of the city's parks.

It is often repeated that grief is "love with nowhere to go." There is some truth to this—certainly, grief is a manifestation of love; so many loved Robby, and now, because of that love, so many are grieving his passing. But the notion that there is nowhere for

Pinball Wizard

With flippers and a silver ball, an alum becomes a champ

She may not be a "deaf, dumb, and blind kid," but she definitely "plays a mean pinball." On January 21, Emily May '09.5 became the Vermont women's pinball champion during the Women's North American Championship. The idea of pinball may conjure up visions of a dark bar with a machine in the corner, or a game room full of college students, or even the rock opera *Tommy* and a certain Who song. But for some folks, it's a serious business that has its own organizing body, the International Flipper Pinball Association (IFPA), which holds national and world championships. Players participate in tournaments all year long and earn points and get rankings.

May herself was a newcomer to the scene in 2016 when a friend invited her to join a Wednesday night pinball league in Burlington, Vt., at a bar called Tilt. She says, "I didn't come in dead last on two of the four games we played that night," and she had a lot of fun, so she continued the next week. "Then I really went down the rabbit hole and started playing two to three nights a week, watching pinball streams and tutorials, and eventually traveling to tournaments." She put in thousands of hours and at one point was even ranked among the top 10 women players in the IFPA rankings based on tournament performance.

So it's no wonder she prevailed in January, but it wasn't easy. Starting out in the round of 16, she went head-to-head against players as she advanced to the round of 8, quarterfinals, and semifinals. Each round was played to the best of seven games with the first person to four wins getting to move on. At the start of each match, the players had to choose three machines to play on—one from the OLD category, one from the MID category, and one from NEW, each group with nine machines to choose from. An OLD choice might be Flash Gordon or Harlem Globetrotters, a MID choice Monster Bash or Shrek, and a NEW choice Jurassic Park or Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. The players used the top seed's pick first, then the lower seed's, and kept alternating.

For the final, May played a nail-biting round against last year's state champion, and they battled through all seven possible games, trading wins back and forth. May finally won game seven on a 1986 Gottlieb machine called Hollywood Heat.

What is the allure of pinball? "Playing pinball involves a blend of skill, strategy, and fun that I find incredibly engaging and satisfying," May says. "It's both a social event and a competitive sport. I encourage anyone with even a slightly competitive nature to come check it out!"

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAM TAYLOR

this deep emotion to go belies the phenomenal community that Robby built and continues to foster; in this difficult time, we encourage all those who miss him to hold him close by sharing their love (and their grief) with one another. Let's hold tight to our precious memories with Robby and the early days over which our friendship flourished, in Vermont.

—Class Correspondents: Elma Burnham (ecburnham@gmail.com); Peter DiPrinzio (peterdI331@gmail.com).

2015
REUNION CLASS

Sarah Cohen sent the exciting news that she climbed Kilimanjaro last October!

—Class Correspondent: Elyse Barnard (elyse.dh.barnard@gmail.com).

2016

Amari Simpson joined Colgate University as the director of diversity and equity in 2023.

Margaret Lindon writes, "I recently opened a gallery space here in Los Angeles, Calif., with my friend, Dylan Riley, who I met at Rhode Island School of Design during my grad studies. It would be nice to see some Middlebury faces at the space."

Adrian Walsh, a nurse practitioner at Yampa Valley Medical Associates in Steamboat Springs, Colo., ran in the 2024 Olympic Trials Marathon in February in Orlando, Fla. She took 77th place in the race, just 19 minutes behind the winner.

—Class Correspondents: Emma McDonald (elmcdonald21@gmail.com); Aviva Shwayder (aviva.shwayder@gmail.com).

2017

Colin Larsen completed the 2023 Vermont State Walking College and was named a Walking College Fellow. Goals for the fellows are to advance safe, equitable, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk in communities throughout Vermont. Each fellow comes up with a Walk Action Plan and Colin's plan focuses on making the densely populated New North End of Burlington a place where residents have safe and equitable walking access to parks, paths, beaches, and other amenities.

After acquiring a master's in classical archaeology from Oxford University in England, **Caius Mergy** made a career change and took brewing classes in the master brewer program at the Siebel Institute in Chicago and the Doemens Academy in Munich. After working in California as a brewer at Devil's Canyon Brewing Company in San Carlos, he returned to Connecticut and opened Caius Farm Brewery in Branford. You can learn more about it at caiusfarmbrewery.com.

Congratulations to **Annie Grayer,** who was named to the 2024 *Forbes* "30 Under 30" list of notable professionals in media. Annie is a Capitol Hill reporter for CNN who is trying to cut through the polarizing political climate and give an informed perspective on current affairs.

—Class Correspondent: Ivan Valladares (ivanantvall@gmail.com).

2018

Jigar Bhakta sent the news that he married Julia Pearl on July 15 in Hudson Gardens in Littleton, Colo. (See a photo on page 81.) He and Julia graduated from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth last June with their master's degrees in business administration. They took jobs in Denver, where Jigar is a consultant at Bain & Co., and Julia is a consultant with Innosight.

—Class Correspondents: Georgia Grace Edwards (georgiagrace.edwards@gmail.com); Charlie Mitchell (charlie@tom.org); Hannah Pustejovsky (hannah.pustejovsky@gmail.com).

2019

Congratulations to **Rory Kelly**, who was awarded a Fulbright grant to Tunisia, where she plans to work with a research team and the Tunisian Football Federation, elevating women through sports medicine and sports science research.

2020
REUNION CLASS

Four members of the Class of 2020 were selected to receive National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. The program supports outstanding students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at U.S. institutions. Recipients include **Maya Gomez**, who is studying ecology at the Univ. of Southern California; **Olivia Jin**, who is studying sociology at Stanford Univ.; **Karl Lin**, who is studying biochemistry at the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell Univ.; and **Daniel Tetreault**, who is studying microbial biology at Cornell University.

—Class Correspondent: Katelan Newman (katelan.newman@gmail.com).

2021

Daniel Krugman graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health last spring and has started a PhD in anthropology at Brown Univ.

2022

Trude "Max" Padilla, who is the executive editor for policy analysis at Chicago Policy Review, conducted an interview last December with Governor Mark Gordon '79 of Wyoming. They discussed environmental issues specific to Wyoming and rural America as well as climate policy and his take on environmental, social, and governance policies in the first part of the interview, and Wyoming's economy, the lack of understanding from Washington, D.C., and cryptocurrency in the second part.

2023

Hi everyone! My name is **Sara Massey** and I am the correspondent for the Class of 2023! A little bit about myself: I majored in economics at Midd, and I just moved to Boston and will be going to get my master's in speech pathology this fall at MGH IHP in Charlestown, Mass. Looking forward to hearing about all of your exciting life updates or Midd-related news soon! Please share your notes with me!

—Class Correspondent: Sara Massey (sara.f.massey@gmail.com).

OBITUARIES

1945

Richard S. McCrudden, 100, of Grand Junction, Colo., on December 30, 2022. Leaving Middlebury after a year-and-a-half to join the Army's 10th Mountain Division during WWII, he finished his degree after the war at the Univ. of New Hampshire, receiving a BS in business administration. He then worked 40 years for the Aspen Ski Co., retiring as the administrative director of the Aspen, Snowmass, and Buttermilk ski schools. Predeceased by wife Connie, he is survived by daughter Mary, two grandchildren, one great-grandson, and two stepchildren.

Albert C. Smith Jr., 99, of Rochester, N.Y., on October 7, 2022. After serving in WWII, he matriculated at Middlebury and was a member of Delta Upsilon. He earned an MS in chemistry at Middlebury and a PhD in chemistry from Harvard Univ. He spent his career at Eastman Kodak, improving color film and earning many patents. Predeceased by wife Nancy (Fitz), he is survived by Stephen, Mark, and Deborah, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

1947

Frances Swain Moretti, 97, of Acton, Mass., on October 27, 2022. After earning a Master of Library Science from Northeastern Univ., she served as the reference librarian at Acton Memorial Library for 15 years, retiring in 1986. She was then elected a library trustee. Predeceased by husband Whitfield and son John, she is survived by children Michael, Martha '71, Peter, Elizabeth, and Paul, 12 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

1948

Iris Forst Brucks, 94, of White Plains, N.Y., on October 1, 2022. She spent her professional life as a librarian, first as a children's librarian in White Plains, then for 27 years as a librarian at a residential treatment center in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. In retirement she was a docent at New York Botanical Garden. She is survived by husband James '47, daughters Susan and Nancy, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Susan McWilliams Leighton, 94, of Lovell, Maine, on August 29, 2021. She taught at Sanborn Seminary and for 15 years at Woodward School for Girls before joining Silver Lake Regional High School in Kingston, Maine, as a French teacher. She taught there for 24 years before retiring in 1988. She and husband Leroy had one son, Richard.

Daniel J. Petrizzi, 102, of Geneva, N.Y., on December 20, 2022. During WWII, he served in the Army in the China-Burma-India theater of operations from 1942 to 1945 and was awarded four Bronze Stars. Earning the French equivalent of a master's from the Sorbonne and a Doctor of Modern Languages in French from Middlebury, he taught as an associate professor of modern languages at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in the 1960s. He then taught at Eisenhower College, part of RIT, before returning to teach at Hobart and William Smith. He is survived by wife Jennie (Baroody).

Juliet Carrington Reed, 96, of Kennett Square, Pa., on November 21, 2022. With an MA in geology from Bryn Mawr College, she taught first-year geology courses at Temple Univ., then volunteered as the associate curator of the mineral collections of the Geology Dept. at Bryn Mawr for many years. She also edited the Friends of Mineralogy, Pennsylvania Chapter, newsletter for over 18 years. She was predeceased by husband Karl '49.

1949

Barbara Burris Herman, 91, of New York, N.Y., on December 22, 2019. After earning a master's in education from New York Univ., she was an elementary school teacher and music coordinator in the New York City public school system.

Gedeon A. LaCroix, 99, of West Arlington, Vt., on January 21, 2023. He served three years in the Marine Corps during WWII, seeing many battles in the Pacific Theater, including on Iwo Jima, and he received a Purple Heart. At Middlebury, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. With an MPA from Wayne State Univ., he had a long career in the steel industry with Shenango Inc., retiring as vice president. Predeceased by wife Jean (Griswold), he is survived by son Christopher.

1950

Virginia Orrall Albert, 94, of Allen, Texas, on January 30, 2023. A member of Phi Mu, she was a supportive wife to a career Marine, especially enjoying being the foreign student liaison officer when her husband was at naval amphibious school. For nine years, she also enjoyed working in local children's clothing shops. Predeceased by husband Dean, daughter Joan, and great-grandson Jason, she is survived by daughters Jill and Abby, five grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Virginia Ringo Cleary, 94, of North Andover, Mass., on November 25, 2022. She worked as a telephone operator in New York City before marrying. She enjoyed traveling and took 35 trips in the U.S. and abroad with Elderhostel. Predeceased by husband Robert '50, she is survived by children John '76, Lee '78, Robert '80, and Marcia '82, nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Ralph R. Eddy, 94, of Savannah, Ga., on November 7, 2022. During WWII, he served in the Navy as an air combat aircrewman. He spent his career in the insurance industry, starting as a group underwriter for Aetna then becoming a group field manager for the Travelers, the company he remained with until his retirement. Predeceased by wife Patricia (Cloutier) '50, he is survived by children Claire, Ralph, and Prudence, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Ralph, Class of 1925.

Natalie T. Richards, 94, of Mattapoisett, Mass., on October 10, 2022. A member of Delta Delta Delta, she earned her master's in elementary education from Boston Univ. in 1955. She had a long career in education, teaching in the public school system and also tutoring. She is survived by brother Edward and his family.

1951

Joan Allen Armour, 93, of Montecito, Calif., on December 21, 2022. A Pi Beta Phi, she earned a master's in elementary education from SUNY Buffalo in 1955. She taught kindergarten and first grade and substituted over the years. She was an active volunteer in the Greater Hartford (Conn.) area while living in Simsbury. Predeceased by husband Norman '53, she is survived by children Paul, John '80, Sarah, Tim '82, and Becky, 13 grandchildren, including Chandler Nemetz '18 and Nicole Armour '21, and four great-grandchildren.

Kenneth R. Carle, 93, of Geneva, N.Y., on January 27, 2023. A Kappa Delta Rho, he earned his MS in chemistry from the Univ. of New Hampshire and a PhD in physical organic chemistry from the Univ. of Delaware. He had a long career as a professor of organic chemistry at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, retiring as professor emeritus. Predeceased by wife Edita (Freimanis), he is survived by children Robert, Kenneth, Sigrid, and Sandra, and nine grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Henry, Class of 1919.

Stephen A. Terry, 94, of Rio Rancho, N.M., on October 20, 2022. A member of Delta Upsilon, he served as a geodetic surveyor with the Army Corps of Engineers. He then worked 11 years with Aero Service Corp. and 18 years with Texas Instruments. He was a founding member of consultant company Petrominex and was an independent consultant to the petroleum industry. Predeceased by wife Jeannette (Shirley), son John, and grandson Nolan, he is survived by son Stephen, four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Paul W. Thompson, 95, of Hingham, Mass., on November 22, 2022. During WWII, he served in the Navy. He worked with his father in the wool business and as agent manager for Quincy Mutual Insurance prior to purchasing Sampson Insurance Agency in 1972, where he worked until he retired. He was survived by wife Constance (MacArthur), who died November 24, 2022. Survivors include children Bruce, Craig, and Susan, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

1952

Agnes Benedict James, 92, of Weybridge, Vt., on November 17, 2022. She was a member of Phi Mu. She worked for several years at the College Town Shop in Middlebury, was the organist at the Weybridge Congregational Church for 40 years, and was an active volunteer. Predeceased by husband Stephen and son Timothy, she is survived by children Linnea, Peter, and Robert, eight grandchildren, including Chris '01 and Andrew '07 Everett, and five great-grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include mother Edith Benedict, Class of 1926 (deceased), and sister Myrdith McKinley '56.

Jane Eaton Meiklejohn, 92, of Ridgway, Colo., on October 1, 2022. She worked for *Time* magazine in the early 1950s, doing clerical work. Later she became the director of the Arlington (Vt.) Day Care Center and served in various government capacities in Vermont. She also lived and worked in Colorado and Oregon. She was a photographer and writer and submitted numerous articles for *Vermont Life* and *Yankee Magazine*, the *Boston Globe*, and the *Times Argus*. She is survived by children Harry, Robin, Lesley, and Susan, and three grandchildren.

1953

Norman E. Armour, 94, of Monetcito, Calif., on October 2, 2022. He served as a paratrooper in the Army with the occupational force in Japan after WWII. A Phi Kappa Tau, he earned his LLB law degree from the Univ. of Connecticut and worked 34 years for Connecticut Bank and Trust in Hartford in the trust and investment business. He then founded with partners the Trust Company of Connecticut. Wife Joan (Allen) '51 survived him then died on December 21, 2022. He is survived by children Paul, John '80, Sarah, Tim '82, and Becky, 13 grandchildren including Chandler Nemetz '18 and Nicole Armour '21, and four great-grandchildren.

Mary Gamble Callanan, 91, of Topsham, Maine, on November 18, 2022. She volunteered with many organizations in Yarmouth, Maine, and served on the board of trustees of the local library, served as president of the Friends of the Library, and played a central role in the creation of the children's room. Predeceased by husband Charles, son Owen, and grandson Peter, she is survived by children Reid, Thomas '77, Martha, Sarah, and Mary, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Catherine Courtney Clayton, 91, of Glastonbury, Conn., on November 3, 2022. A Kappa Kappa Gamma, she worked for the Delaware Heart Assoc. in Wilmington, Del. She enjoyed painting watercolors and gardening and was a lifelong swimmer. Predeceased by husband David, she is survived by sons Chris '79, Peter, Matthew '83, and Court, and five grandchildren, including Carl Clayton '12.

Robert P. Haseltine, 92, of Fairfield, Conn., on November 7, 2022. At Middlebury he was a member of Delta Upsilon and president of the Drama Club. Earning an MFA in theater arts from Boston Univ., he had a career as a drama teacher and show director at Scarsdale (N.Y.) High School, where he taught for 34 years. He inspired countless students, including Liza Minnelli and Aaron Sorkin. Predeceased by wife Dorothy (Farrell), he is survived by daughter Melanie, her husband, and two grandchildren.

Charles L. Mraz, 91, of Mary Esther, Fla., on September 28, 2022. A member of Alpha Sigma Psi, he earned his BA/BS in mechanical engineering through the Middlebury/MIT program. After earning an MS in mechanical engineering from Stanford Univ., he had a long career in aeronautical engineering and development, working on missiles and Project Gemini. Hired by McDonnell Douglas Corp. in 1970, he was the director of program development for Asia and the Pacific region and lived many years in Japan and Singapore. He is survived by wife Lia, daughters Laurene and Maria, and three grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include uncle Leonard Galassi '39 (deceased) and half-sister Marna Ehrech '80.

William F. Otis Jr., 97, of Princeton, N.J., on November 28, 2022. During WWII, he served in the Army Air Corps as a tail gunner in B-25s in Europe. He was awarded the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He earned a medical degree from the UVM School of Medicine and started his psychiatric practice with the Carrier Clinic in Belle Mead, N.J. He then opened his own private practice in Princeton, retiring in 1992. Predeceased by first wife Grete and daughter Christine, he is survived by wife Daniela, son Kim, one granddaughter, and stepson Jonathan and his family.

1954

Ellen Healy Lucas, 89, of Norwalk, Conn., on November 30, 2022. She began her career in education at Brien McMahon High School, where she taught French and Spanish. She earned an MS in secondary education at the Univ. of Bridgeport in 1974 and eventually retired after 30 years in the Norwalk public schools. Predeceased by husband Van Court '54, she is survived by sons David and Thomas, and three grandchildren.

Dorothy Kimball Rand, 90, of Bedford, Mass., on January 8, 2023. An Alpha Xi Delta, she earned a master's in program evaluation from Hahnemann Univ. and pursued a career in social services, working for agencies such as Big Sisters of Philadelphia, Women in Transition, and Hahnemann Hospital. Predeceased by first husband Charles Hart '55 and second husband Robert Rand, she is survived by sons David and Stephen, stepchildren Geoff and Cyndy, six grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include mother Helen (Lingham) '24 (deceased) and sister Kim Gosh '63.

Priscilla Kelley Sadler, 90, of Camden, Maine, on June 22, 2022. A member of Sigma Kappa, she had a long career as a laboratory technologist at Cornell Medical School New York Hospital. She also spent a year-and-a-half working at Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden. Predeceased by husband John, she is survived by stepchildren John, Vivienne, and Dana and their families. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Stillman Kelley '29.

Irene Moseley Shiverick, 89, of Spanish Fort, Ala., on December 17, 2022. She taught seventh and eighth grade English, worked at Middlebury as a secretary for Chaplain Charles Scott, taught sixth grade, and worked as a receptionist at the United Nations before raising her family. She was predeceased by husband Tobey '56. Deceased Middlebury relatives include sister Hattsie Purdy '59.

Marjorie Dawson Storrs, 90, of Hanover, N.H., on October 23, 2022. She was a valued employee of AT&T/Lucent Technologies for 14 years and served with the League of Women Voters. Predeceased by husband Barrie '52 and friend Herman Dieckamp, she is survived by children Daryl '79, David '81, Ken, and Jennifer, and three grandchildren.

1955

Janet Goodwin Carrick, 88, of Austin, Texas, on December 13, 2022. After raising her family, she enjoyed travel, golf, bridge, and family and friends. She and her husband spent six months of the year in San Miguel, Mexico. Predeceased by husband Winfield, she is survived by children Wendy, Winfield, and William, and five grandchildren.

Elizabeth Leonard Cooney, 89, of Scituate, Mass., on September 28, 2022. She was a member of Sigma Kappa. Her artistic side came through in her knitting and crocheting of beautiful shawls for chemotherapy patients, as well as blankets, scarves, and mittens. Predeceased by daughter Judith, she is survived by children Michael, Emily, Elizabeth, Garrett, Peter, Laura, Jenna, and Andrew, 21 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Brooks G. Dodd, 89, formerly of Appleton, Wis., on January 10, 2023. An Alpha Sigma Psi, he earned his MBA from Harvard. He had a long career in the paper industry, working for several companies before being self-employed as a manufacturer's representative, selling chemicals and other products to pulp and paper companies. Predeceased by first wife Anna Faye (Gustafson) and second wife Betty (Leisering), he is survived by sons David, Jeffrey, and Paul, and four grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include parents George '26 and Margaret (Brooks) '29, and sister Peggy Jones '58.

Sally Foss Haskell, 89, of Auburn, Maine, on October 13, 2022. A Kappa Kappa Gamma, she worked as a sales manager for Cran Barry, a band uniform company in Marblehead, Mass., for many years then as an insurance agent and registered securities rep for New England Life Insurance Co. Predeceased by husband Ted, she is survived by children Elizabeth, Robert, and Christopher, and four grandchildren.

1956

Norman S. Baier Jr., 87, of Knoxville, Tenn., on October 18, 2022. A member of Alpha Sigma Psi, he earned a Bachelor of Architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1959. After working with Walter Gropius for three years, he had a long career in architecture, most notably with Galliher, Baier, and Best. Middlebury relatives include daughter Andrea '85.

Kathie Lowrie Birkhaeuser, 88, of Wilbraham, Mass., on November 9, 2022. A Pi Beta Phi, she earned her Master of Education from American International College and devoted her professional life to teaching elementary school in the Wilbraham Public School System for over 20 years. Predeceased by husband David and son Dean, she is survived by sons Daniel and Keith, and four grandchildren.

Richard A. Davison, 88, of Newark, Del., on January 19, 2023. With an MA from the Univ. of Rochester and a PhD from the Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison, he had a long career as a professor of English and American literatures at the Univ. of Delaware, retiring as professor emeritus. He published over 60 articles and several books on various authors. He is survived by wife Milena (Taychman), children Heather, Gregory '89, and Anne, and one grandchild.

Paul E. Doering, 89, of Pittsboro, N.C., on December 5, 2022. After earning a Bachelor of Architecture at the Univ. of Pennsylvania, he had a long career in architecture, including working at Franklin Institute research labs heading solar applications, and working as a partner at Leatherbee Doering Associates before opening his own consulting business.

Susan Glover Gracey, 87, of Brookline, Mass., on November 12, 2022. She taught elementary school then earned a master's in education and became a supervisor of student teachers at Simmons College. She then served as a court reporter for 18 years. She and her husband began the Hospitality Homes program in 1983, providing places to stay for families of hospital patients. Predeceased by husband Colin, she is survived by Haven, Virginia, Marianna, Mark, and Carla, and three grandchildren.

William E. Hartnett, 88, of San Francisco, Calif., on September 30, 2022. A Kappa Delta Rho, he studied math at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and also studied at NYU. He had a long career with Ford Aerospace and Communications Corp. as a manager in marketing services before joining Space Systems/Loral as the director of international communications.

Donald F. Swenor, 88, of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., on January 10, 2023. He earned his BS in general engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy. He had a long career in engineering, including 27 years at Simonds Precision in Vergennes, Vt. In retirement, he worked at the Middlebury Snowbowl and Ralph Myhre Golf Course. He was survived by wife Ramona (Danyow), who died January 9, 2024. He is survived by sons Tom and Frederick, stepdaughter Susie, and one grandson.

Leila Goodrich Tupman, 88, of Orleans, Mass., on December 31, 2022. A Pi Beta Phi, she worked for over 20 years with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management as a policy writer and public information specialist. She was awarded the agency's highest award as founding editor of its *Management Magazine*. Predeceased by husband

Bill, she is survived by sons John and Jim, and grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include parents Warren '33 and Barbara (Perkins) '35, and uncle and aunt Nelson '29 and Eleanor Goodrich Sanborn '35.

1957

Holly Goodhue VanLeuven, 87, of Scottsdale, Ariz., on November 3, 2022. She cofounded a firm as a community conflict resolution specialist during the civil rights era. With a master's from Western Michigan Univ., she was then a part of Genesis Group as president and trial consultant for lawyers. Predeceased by first husband John and second husband Robert, she is survived by children Don, Nat, Alison, and Erin, and eight grandchildren.

1958

Barbara Ruzicka Doody, 86, of Upland, Calif., on December 23, 2022. An Alpha Xi Delta, she first worked for the Rand Corporation, becoming the editor of the in-house magazine. Later she attended the Univ. of California, Irvine, earned a K–12 teaching credential, and taught a learning-disabled class for nine years in the Chino Unified School District.

Ronald P. Gaudreau, 84, of Prescott, Ariz., on May 26, 2021. A member of Kappa Delta Rho, he joined the Army as a second lieutenant after graduation and served in an active duty capacity until 1980, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He then worked for Cornell Univ. as an energy consultant to small businesses and later worked for the County Dept. of Health while living in Webster, N.Y.

Mary Fromholz Haight, 86, of State College, Pa., on November 5, 2022. A Sigma Kappa, she worked in NYC for a chemical company before joining Festival Productions, which produced the Newport music festivals. She earned a master's in technical editing from Penn State Univ. and became the managing editor of the academic business journal *Interfaces* for 24 years. She is survived by children Molly and Julian, two grandchildren, and stepson Toby and his family.

IN MEMORIAM

Simon Barenbaum

MAY 30, 1926–NOVEMBER 18, 2023

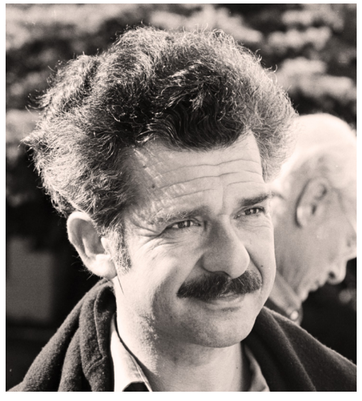
Simon Barenbaum, professor emeritus of French, died on November 18, 2023, in Milford, Mass., with his daughters by his side. He was 97 years old. For over two decades, he inspired faculty and students with his love of French language, culture, and annual theater productions that transformed the French Department.

He was born in Latvia, where his parents were traveling actors in the Yiddish theater. He grew up primarily in Paris, turning 14 when the Nazi occupation began. In 1950, the family moved to the United States and Barenbaum earned his PhD at Brown University, where he became a professor of French before accepting a professorship at Oberlin College in 1956 to teach French language and literature.

Drawn to Middlebury's strong language programs, Barenbaum came to the College in 1970 as a visiting professor of French. He became a full professor with tenure the following year and was also appointed an Old Dominion Foundation professor. He immediately infused theater into the program, directing students in French plays that enhanced their cultural understanding and improved their linguistic ability.

"Simon contributed immeasurably to French life at Middlebury with the annual theater production, and also in the classroom and at the French language tables in the dining room of the Château," said Elliot Polebaum '72. "He was empathetic, always had a kind word for students, and showed real interest in how we were managing. I will not forget his sweet and welcoming manner and the soulful look in his expressive eyes, which I think must have reflected the difficult experiences he and his family endured in France during World War II."

Barenbaum was known for his experiential learning assignments long before the term was popular, including a project to create "Vous Allez à Montréal?"—a free travel guide in French. The guide was updated annually by students in his winter term course after immersive trips to Montreal. Nancy M. O'Connor, Lois B. Watson Professor Emerita of French, says his other classes "included French language at all levels, as well as courses on contemporary



France and French classical theater."

A well-respected, beloved colleague, Barenbaum is remembered fondly by his peers. Edward C. Knox, professor emeritus of French, says, "He was unique among us and a jewel of our profession." O'Connor adds, "I knew him as an extraordinarily kind, generous, proud but unpretentious man, and a dear friend for a very long time."

Predeceased by first wife Colette (Jacot) and second wife Ruth (Schwarzkopf), he is survived by daughters Nicole and Myriam; son Kadia; two grandsons; and one great-granddaughter.

Richard C. Johnson, 86, of Harrisonburg, Va., on October 3, 2022. A Delta Upsilon, he earned an MS in industrial engineering from Northwestern Univ. He had a 38-year career with R.R. Donnelley and Sons Company of Chicago, with various engineering and manufacturing positions leading to corporate engineering director and manufacturing VP. Middlebury awarded him the 2003 Alumni Plaque Award for being an outstanding volunteer. He is survived by wife Mona (Davisson), children Lisa '83 and Kristen, four grandchildren, including Conor Maxwell '17, and three great-grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father B. Clark Johnson '32.

Richard W. Maider, 86, of Seattle, Wash., on October 20, 2022. A member of Chi Psi, he had a 33-year career in the banking industry with People's National Bank/U.S. Bank. Predeceased by wife Sally (Newell) '59, he is survived by children David, Martha, and Thomas, and nine grandchildren.

Katharine Williams Souter, 86, of Salem, Ore., on September 27, 2022. A member of Alpha Xi Delta and Phi Beta Kappa, she earned her MA in English from the Univ. of Wisconsin. She worked in data processing, business, banking, and accounting and earned her MBA in 1988. She was predeceased by husband Scott.

1959

Susan Benham Rickards, 85, of Lower Queensbury, New Brunswick, Canada, on November 23, 2022. A member of Delta Delta Delta, she taught high school for many years in Quebec. She was also an educational innovator, outreach worker, and highly respected newspaper columnist. In 2010, she was awarded the Order of New Brunswick, the highest civilian honor for individual excellence and achievement in New Brunswick. She is survived by husband Jeremy, daughters Karen and Emily, stepchildren Tracey, Hilary, and Natasha, and eight grandchildren.

1960

Emily F. Adams, 84, of St. Albans, Vt., on November 1, 2022. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, she earned her master's in French from Middlebury, did some doctoral work at Yale, and then taught at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown Univ. Moving to Paris, she taught English to journalists, then spent four years in Tunisia working in the hotel industry. She returned to the States in 1977 and lived in Vermont, working as a tutor for Adult Basic Education. Deceased Middlebury relatives include parents Ernest and Evelyn Plumley Adams, both Class of 1925.

Sylvia Boger Elrod, 84, of Crystal, Minn., on December 28, 2022. After earning a master's in Spanish from the Univ. of Wisconsin, she and her husband served in the Peace Corps in Guatemala. Over the years, she worked as a social worker and as a teacher. Predeceased by husband Richard and partner Jack Stuart, she is survived by daughter Jennifer, one granddaughter, and members of Jack's family.

Robert A. Gervais, 84, of Lake Wales, Fla., on November 26, 2022. After serving in the Army for three years, he was a medical technologist at Fletcher Allen Medical Center in Burlington, Vt., for 32 years. Predeceased by second wife Evelyn and daughter Angela, he is survived by sons Shawn and Robert, three stepchildren, 11 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, first wife Ann, and companion Ginger.

John F. Gilwee, 84, of Perrysburg, Ohio, on November 18, 2022. A member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, he earned an MBA from Columbia Univ. Graduate School of Business. He had a 37-year career with Arthur Young, later Ernst and Young, in the tax department. Predeceased by first wife Betsy (Crawford) '60, he is survived by second wife Bette, stepchildren Elizabeth and Adam, and one grandson.

George H. Koenig, 84, of Oswego, N.Y., on December 30, 2022. With a master's in German from Middlebury and a PhD from the Univ. of Maryland, he began teaching at SUNY Oswego in 1968. He later earned a master's in Spanish from Middlebury and retired from teaching in 2000. He is survived by wife Heike, children Monica and Philip, and four grandchildren.

Aivars Krasts, 84, of Houston, Texas, on October 6, 2022. Emigrating from Latvia after being displaced during WWII, he learned English in Brooklyn's public schools. At Middlebury, he was an Alpha Tau Omega. After earning an MBA from the Univ. of Chicago, he had a long career with Conoco Phillips, ascending to VP of planning. He is survived by wife Linda (Reich) and children Evan '93 and Kerry.

1961

James V. Christie, 83, of Watertown, Conn., on December 26, 2022. A member of Theta Chi, he served two years in the Army as a lieutenant, earning the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service. He joined the family business, Watertown Building Supply Co., where he served as general manager and co-owner for over 40 years. He is survived by wife Margery (Warner) '61, children James and Rebecca, and two grandchildren.

William H. Maxwell, 83, of South Portland, Maine, on January 4, 2023. A member of Alpha Tau Omega, he earned his medical degree from Boston Univ. Medical School in 1966. During the Vietnam War, he served in the Army Medical Corps in West Virginia. He established his ENT practice in Portland and had a 50-year medical career. In 1978, he helped found the Medical Mutual Insurance Co. of Maine for malpractice suits. He is survived by wife Sally (Howard) '62, children Larry '89, Sally, Susan, and Anne, and 10 grandchildren.

Melinda Geldert Nicholson, 83, of Anchorage, Alaska, on January 30, 2023. She sang with the Anchorage Concert Chorus for over 40 years and worked on the Alaska Festival of Music. She was a longtime teacher of English as a Second Language at the Univ. of Alaska Anchorage. Predeceased by son Roger, she is survived by husband John, children Amy and Tim, two grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

1962

Howard Scheinblum, 81, of West Hartford, Conn., on October 5, 2022. After earning his LLB from Boston Univ. Law School, he worked in private practice from 1966 to 1990. He was then appointed to the Connecticut Superior Court, where he served as a judge until his retirement in 2016. Predeceased by first wife Judith and son David, he is survived by second wife Susan and son Jeffrey.

John F. Sinclair, 82, formerly of Springfield, Vt., on December 14, 2022. A Sigma Epsilon, he earned his dental degree from the Univ. of Pennsylvania Dental School then served in the Army Dental Corps. In 1967 he opened his dental practice in Springfield, Vt.

Predeceased by wife Nancy (Bigelow), he is survived by children Molly, Jes, and Peter, and two grandchildren.

1963

William K. Starkey, 82, of Galena, Md., on November 5, 2022. After earning a master's from the Univ. of Maryland in agricultural engineering, he worked for the USDA and then for Green Giant. In 1970, he joined the family business, Starkey Farms Co., helping it become one of the largest fresh market spinach producers. He is survived by wife Barbara (Brown) '63, sons Brennan '87 and Chris, and four grandchildren.

1964

Lee Calligaro, 80, of Washington, D.C., on December 19, 2022. A Zeta Psi, he earned his law degree from Rutgers the State University of New Jersey School of Law in 1967. He served as an officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps then went into private practice, eventually opening his firm Casson, Calligaro & Murtyn. He is survived by children Lisa, Robert, Bethany, and Kate, seven grandchildren, and companion Linda Sterlacci.

David R. Holmes, 80, of Panton, Vt., on November 29, 2022. A member of Delta Upsilon, he earned a master's in international affairs from Columbia Univ., and a PhD in education from the Univ. of Denver. He served as a professor of higher education administration at UVM, and a grants administrator at the U.S. Dept of Education in D.C., before serving as headmaster at Suffield Academy for 13 years and as the director of the Community School in Ketchum, Idaho. He is survived by wife Toni, sons Christopher and Caleb '03 and wife Allison, and three grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include father John '36 and aunt Marion '33 (both deceased) and sister Carol '67, brother-in-law Jim '62, and their daughter, Megan Shattuck '96.

Elizabeth Edmunds Stempel, 80, of Burlington, Vt., on December 28, 2022. A member of Alpha Chi Omega, she earned her bachelor's from UVM. She worked as a risk analyst for Liberty Mutual Insurance in Boston and as a buyer for the U.S. Navy Aviation in Philadelphia. Predeceased by former husband Joseph and daughter Anne, she is survived by sister-in-law Carolyn Edmunds and her family. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father William, Class of 1917.

1965

Richard M. Mather, 79, of New Haven, Conn., on January 12, 2023. He worked as a methods analyst for Blue Cross Blue Shield for 17 years and then at Stop and Shop for 30 years. He is survived by wife Shirley.

1966

Donald D. MacDermid, 79, of Chester, Conn., on October 11, 2022. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, he loved art and was often found at art galleries, museums, historical homes, and antique shops. He is survived by a niece and several nephews. Deceased Middlebury relatives include mother Velma (Pilling), Class of 1924.

Steven F. Perry, 78, of Bonn, Germany, on November 13, 2022. After earning a PhD in biology at Boston Univ., he served as an assistant professor in zoology at the Univ. of Oldenburg in Germany for 13 years. He then did respiratory research at the Univ. of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, before returning to Germany for a faculty position in zoology at the Univ. of Bonn. He is survived by wife Regine Perry-Mertens.

1967

Michael W. Booth, 77, of Minneapolis, Minn., on October 25, 2022. He was a member of Phi Kappa Tau. He spent most of his career in social services with Hennepin County and the American Red Cross in Minneapolis.

James Gartenlaub, 77, of New York, N.Y., on September 27, 2022. After earning a master's from New York Univ. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, he worked as an editor at Harcourt Brace Jovanich, then became an editor in investment research at the First Boston Corp. before serving as an editor and VP in equity research at Credit Suisse. He is survived by partner Diane Stephens.

1968

Cynthia Camp Barker, 76, of Haverford, Pa., on January 24, 2023. A Kappa Kappa Gamma, she had a 20-year career in information technology, managing software development projects. Earning an MBA from the Univ. of Colorado in 1999, she served as the CFO and policy analyst for the Water Division of the Natural Resources Dept. of Colorado, retiring in 2011. She is survived by husband Robert, son Thomas, and two grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Frederick '38 as well as numerous members of the Hickcox family.

Christopher S. Diamond, 76, of Steamboat Springs, Colo., on January 12, 2023. An Alpha Sigma Psi, he earned an MA in English from the Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst. He served in the Army in Vietnam in the early 1970s then entered the ski industry full time, working at Killington and Mount Snow. In 1999, he became managing director at Steamboat Ski Resort, advancing to president and COO of the corporation, retiring in 2015. He is survived by wife Eileen, children Keenen '03 and Elizabeth, and two grandchildren.

1969

Jack L. Milne, 75, of Portland, Ore., on October 19, 2022. After earning his BS from the Univ. of Oregon, he joined the Army and served as an officer in the Medical Service Corps in Vietnam. He worked many years at the Portland Development Commission then worked at Bridgetown Realty. Predeceased by brother William, he is survived by brother Robert and his family.

William H. Morton Jr., 77, of Vero, Fla., on January 23, 2023. A member of Delta Kappa Epsilon, he worked in residential construction developments before joining the First National Bank of Boston and later Lazard Freres. He became a partner in Coastal Aviation and later COO of Memry Corp. He spent the last years of his career as managing director of iQ Venture Partners. He is survived by wife Dawn (McClure), children William, Heidi, Scott, and Melinda, and eight grandchildren.

1970

Frank B. Moorman, 73, of Annapolis, Md., on October 27, 2022. After college, he volunteered with Vista, worked in radio and publishing in NYC, earned an MA in French from Trinity College, then spent 27 years at the Univ. of Maryland Medical Center, retiring in 2016 as director of strategic internal communications. With a love of acting, he was in many performances over the years. He is survived by wife Mary Ellen, daughters Barrie and Erinna, two grandchildren, and former wife Carol Smith.

1971

Helen Maxson Cervini, 73, of Weatherford, Okla., on January 27, 2023. With an MA in English from Bread Loaf, she taught English at the secondary level. Earning an MA and PhD in English literature from Cornell Univ., she joined the faculty of Southwestern Oklahoma State Univ. in 1989, where she taught English until retiring in 2015. She is survived by husband Michael and son William. Deceased Middlebury relatives include mother Donna '47.

Barry P. Metayer, 73, of Wilbraham, Mass., on November 22, 2022. A member of Delta Upsilon, he worked as a grant writer and special projects coordinator for Massachusetts Career Development Institute (MCDI) and as the director of grant development for MCDI and then Quinsigamond Community College. In 1990 he earned an MPA from American International College. An outstanding athlete, he was inducted into the Springfield Public School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. Predeceased by son Barry Jr., he is survived by wife Anne (Keough) and children Michael, Stephen, and Katie.

1972

Nancy E. End, 72, of Nashua, N.H., on January 6, 2023. With an MS in industrial administration from Union College, she worked as a business analyst at Digital Equipment Corp. before becoming an independent consultant for the computer industry. She is survived by brother David.

Debra A. Johnson, 72, of Oakdale, Calif., on January 1, 2023. After earning her PhD from the California School of Professional Psychology, she worked at Stanislaus County Dept. of Mental Health as a clinical psychologist and also opened her own private practice. In 1994, she founded Parents United of Stanislaus County to treat and heal families impacted by child sexual abuse. Predeceased by partner Ann, she is survived by wife Jeanette and many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Deborah Erdman Luder, 72, of Livingston, Mont., on December 15, 2022. After graduating from the Univ. of

IN MEMORIAM

William D. Delahunt '63

JULY 18, 1941–MARCH 30, 2024

The Honorable William D. Delahunt, a member of the Class of 1963 and a former trustee, died on March 30, 2024, at his home in Quincy, Massachusetts, at the age of 82. Delahunt represented the 10th Congressional District of Massachusetts for 14 years and was a highly engaged member of the Middlebury alumni community, serving as a trustee from 2004 to 2009.

"Middlebury is fortunate to have benefited from Bill's wisdom and energy over the years," says President Laurie Patton. "He was known for his ability to bridge divides and find common ground—values we work to achieve every day at Middlebury."

Born on July 18, 1941, Delahunt grew up in Quincy, Massachusetts, and attended Thayer Academy before matriculating at Middlebury, where he majored in political science. He served as a radarman in the Coast Guard in 1963 and in the Coast Guard Reserve from 1963 to 1971. He earned his law degree from Boston College Law School in 1967.

He served a term in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1973 to 1975 before being elected district attorney of Norfolk County, a position he held until 1996. In 2021, the Norfolk County Superior Courthouse in Boston, where he worked so many years, was renamed the William D. Delahunt Superior Courthouse.

Delahunt began his tenure in Congress in 1996 with his first term and was reelected six times. As a liberal Democrat, he was proud of his bipartisan record, saying, "Every significant piece of legislation that I got on a president's desk was a result of my relationships with key Republicans."

He brought the same cooperative spirit to his work as a Middlebury trustee. "Bill had many friends around the boardroom table from both sides of the aisle, and he always provided thoughtful counsel on legislative matters," says Rick Fritz '68, who was chair of the trustees during Delahunt's term on the board. "His friendship and winning smile will be missed." A "minute" honoring his service on the board notes, "As one whose professional responsibilities have involved oversight of federal policies promoting international cooperation, Bill has greatly aided Middlebury's efforts to become a leader in international education."

Following his retirement from Congress, Delahunt joined the law firm Eckert Seamans Cherin and Mellott as special counsel and served on the Harvard Institute of Politics' Senior Advisory Committee in 2016, becoming its acting director in 2017.

He is survived by his first wife, Kati; his fiancée, Julie Pagano; two daughters, Kirstin and Kara '97; and two grandchildren.

CLASS ACTS

Wisconsin–Madison, she earned her medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Moving to Montana 40 years ago, she became just the second woman obstetrics and gynecology doctor practicing in the state and was a partner at Park Clinic until she retired in 2000. She is survived by husband Andreas.

1973

Stephanie Blankenship Herrell, 70, of San Jose, Calif., on September 25, 2022. After college she taught high school music before earning an MBA in marketing and finance from UCLA. She then began a long career in the telecommunications industry, retiring in 2008. She is survived by husband Glenn, stepchildren James, Lynne, Ann, and Thomas, and 11 grandchildren.

Dean S. Nikitas, 71, of Pittsfield, Mass., on January 19, 2023. He worked as a surveyor, deed researcher, topographer, and cartographer before earning a degree in teacher education from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in 2003 and teaching at Eagleton School and Pittsfield High School. He then became a certified nurse assistant. He is survived by brother Steven '76 and extended family. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father S. Peter '43.

Nancy Tucker Screen, 72, of Bourne, Mass., on January 18, 2023. After graduation, she worked in the insurance business then was an active volunteer in her community while raising her family. She and husband Bob '73 had children Michael, Kristin, and Katrina. Middlebury relatives include brother Robert '75.

1975

Mark C. Evenson, 69, of Mineral Point, Wis., on January 9, 2023. With master's degrees in French and Spanish from Middlebury and a PhD in Spanish from the Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison, he taught Spanish at Gustavus Adolphus College before joining the faculty at the Univ. of Wisconsin–Platteville in 1997, where he taught Spanish until he retired in 2017. He is survived by brother Ralph, sons Collin and Andrew, and dear friend Rebecca Payne.

Catherine Richter Herrod, 69, of Santa Fe, N.M., on December 18, 2022. After earning her bachelor's in economics and art history from Stanford Univ. and earning another bachelor's from the Univ. of Minnesota in 1980, she had a long career as an executive in the retail, banking, and nonprofit sectors in Alabama, Minnesota, Washington, and New Mexico. She is survived by husband Newby.

1977

Darrell R. Goodwin, 67, of Evergreen, Colo., on January 10, 2023. With an MBA from Boston Univ., he worked at Public Service Co. of Colorado in their finance and real estate divisions before joining Northwestern Mutual as a financial analyst. He is survived by wife Gail (Hannan), and daughter Caroline '14 and husband Eric '13. Middlebury relatives include father Verne '53, mother Mary (Weeks) '53 (deceased), and brother Jim '79.

1982

Charles C. Bates, 65, of Fayston, Vt., on December 19, 2022. Over the years he worked as a carpenter and as a software engineer at various companies, including Mapinfo and Wyant Data Systems. He is survived by twin sons, Jack and Eric, their mother, Jennifer Ball Robillard '80, and his sister and brothers.

1985

Anna Sun, 60, of Middlebury, Vt., on October 15, 2022. She earned her bachelor's and ESL certification with courses at Johnson State College and St. Michael's College. She worked from 1995 to 2014 at Middlebury as coordinator for the Chinese Language School and for the Chinese, French, and Japanese Departments. She is survived by daughter Tara '06 and son Michael Vanacore, and three grandchildren.

1986

W. Lawrence Sexton, 58, of Mays Landing, N.J., on October 16, 2022. He earned his MBA from the Univ. of Connecticut and a master's in computer science from Brandeis Univ. He had a long career with General Dynamics in information technology. Predeceased by father William, he is survived by mother Suzanne and brothers Matthew and Mark.

1989

Theodore J. Kuzmeskas, 55, of Eastham, Mass., on November 29, 2022. He worked for many years for the Boy Scouts of America. He went on to hold various sales director positions and was most recently a software engineering program manager with Dell Technologies. He is survived by sons Alec and Andrew and former wife Kristina Luzzi.

1991

Jamida F. Orange, 53, of Atlanta, Ga., on October 16, 2022. She worked for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office and the DeKalb Probate Court then followed her passion as an organizer and activist while working with the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda. Predeceased by her father James, she is survived by mother Cleo, brother Cleon, and sisters Deirdre and Tamara.

1996

Norman D. Cella, 48, of Raritan Township, N.J., on January 5, 2023. He served in the Marine Corps after college, attaining the rank of captain. He then had a long career in the corporate world. He is survived by wife Sarah (Fessler) and children Hannah, Norman, William, Andrew, and Jacob.

1999

Colin Canham III, 45, of Kingston, Mass., on October 9, 2022. After earning a master's in Spanish from Middlebury, he earned a master's in international business from Tufts Univ. and was employed as the director of business development for Actual Energy in Sandwich, Mass. Predeceased by wife Sara Emerick, he is survived by daughter Emma Lola Canham.

2005

Brian D. Vito, 39, of Needham, Mass., on December 7, 2022. Earning a law degree from Harvard, he worked at law firm Sidley, Austin in Chicago, and Magnetar Financial in Illinois, and was a senior fellow in the Program on Corporate Governance at Harvard Law School before starting his own firm. He is survived by parents David and Lia, and brother Mark.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

1952

Marilyn P. Johnson, 100, MA French, of Bethlehem, N.H., on September 19, 2022. During WWII she helped decipher Japanese codes as a Navy WAVE. She had a long career in the State Dept.'s Foreign Service, including serving as ambassador to Togo.

1956

Claire Robitaille Blanchard, 94, MA French, of Manchester, N.H., on October 3, 2022. During her 30-year career in education, she was a language teacher in several New Hampshire high schools and lectured at UNH.

1958

Joseph A. Duchesneau, 93, MA French, of Mount Pleasant, S.C., on July 12, 2022. He had a 37-year career in New Jersey, teaching French at Columbia High School and serving as principal at South Orange Middle School.

1959

Anne Keller Smith, 90, MA Spanish, of Mansfield, Conn., on October 9, 2022. She taught at St. Lawrence Univ. and City College in New York before teaching Spanish at Eastern Connecticut State University.

1962

George B. Ludlow Jr., 89, MA French, of Venice, Fla., on August 22, 2022. He was head of the Modern Language Dept. at Kent School and served many years as a national judge for U.S. Figure Skating, including at several Olympics.

Jane Garrette Martin, 85, MA Spanish, of Chestertown, Md., on September 29, 2022. She had a long career in education, teaching math at various middle and high schools in the Baltimore area.

Thomas F. Weld, 85, MA French, of Osterville, Mass., on September 24, 2022. He taught French at Taft School then joined JP Morgan before pursuing a banking career then real estate career in France.

1964

Ella Robinson Regan, 86, MA English, of Mount Pleasant, Mich., on July 18, 2022. She taught elementary school in Massachusetts then taught English at Gilmanton (N.H.) School.

1966

Cesar J. Noble, 90, MA Spanish, of the Villages, Fla., on October 23, 2022. He taught Spanish at Holderness School and at Savannah Country Day School.

1967

Robert J. Gallagher, 83, MA English, of Silver Spring, Md., on November 3, 2022. He taught English and drama for 25 years in Montgomery County, Md., before working for Discovery Communications in education support systems.

Sr. **Marie P. Holdman**, 101, MA German, of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., on September 18, 2022. She taught German for decades at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, among other appointments.

1968

Crawford Blagden Jr., 86, MA English, of Shoreham, Vt., on September 12, 2022. For many years he taught at some of America's most prestigious private schools.

Dorothy Goetz Lux, 80, MA German, formerly of Waldwick, N.J., on November 26, 2022. For over 40 years, she taught German and Spanish at Bergenfield (N.J.) High School.

1972

Mara Rekis Anderson, 76, MA German, of Lancaster, Pa., on September 6, 2022. She had a 32-year career teaching German at Ephrata (Pa.) High School and was an adjunct professor at Millersville Univ.

1974

Cynthia Wilczynski Diaz, 71, MA Italian, of Buffalo, N.Y., on October 22, 2022. She taught French, Italian, and Spanish for the Buffalo Diocese and for adult education for over 40 years.

1975

Philip E. Fitzpatrick, 77, MA English, of Duluth, Minn., on November 20, 2022. He taught at several different schools in North Carolina and Minnesota and published his poetry.

Charlene A. Patch, 75, MA French, of Rutland, Vt., on October 24, 2022. She taught in Vermont schools in Poultney, Rutland, and Brandon for 40 years.

1977

Timothy J. Allen, 70, MA German, of Scarborough, Maine, on August 4, 2022. Over his 40-year journalism career, he worked as a writer and editor at many major daily newspapers in Maine.

Rosemary Bury Golding, 80, MA English, of Orillia, Ontario, Canada, on October 8, 2022. She had a long career as a high school English teacher at several different schools.

1978

Kirsten A. Kozolanka, 69, MA Russian, of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, on October 16, 2022. She worked in strategic communications before becoming a professor in the Dept. of Journalism and Communication at Carleton Univ.

2004

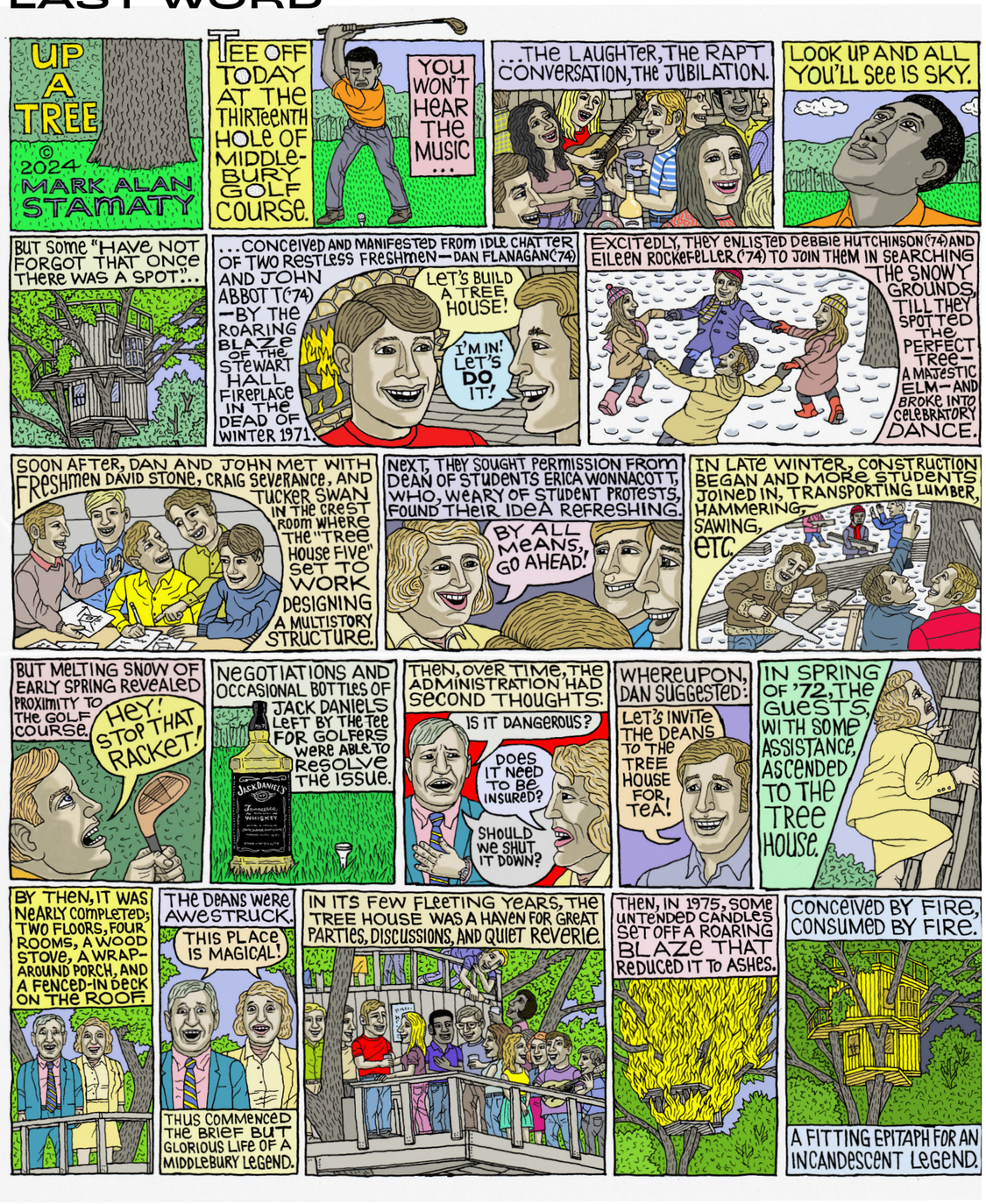
Amy Halloran Escott, 47, MA English, of Derry, N.H., on September 20, 2022. She taught 10th grade English at Methuen (Mass.) High School for many years.

STAFF

Stephen R. Kiel, 47, of Gordonsville, Va., on October 18, 2023, of cancer. He joined the Middlebury staff in 2006 as the technology coordinator in the Center for Careers and Internships. In 2016 he transitioned to the position of associate director of Advancement Information Systems, working there until May 2019. A philosopher and sonneteer, he is the former husband of Penelope Wade, MA English '15, German School '09–'10. He is survived by wife Giulia, children Juno Persephone and Eidalis, and stepson Romeo.

Fleur Aylsworth Laslocky, 92, of Middlebury, Vt., on January 15, 2023. She earned a degree in English from Ohio State Univ. She joined the Middlebury staff in 1981 as the secretary to the vice president for foreign languages and director of the Language Schools. In June 1983, she became the interlibrary loan supervisor in Starr Library, where she loved working side by side with students. She is survived by husband Russell, children Jenna, Stephen '86, and Meghan '89, and one grandson.

Winifred Poquette Ryan, 81, of St. Petersburg, Fla., on August 26, 2023. She began working at Middlebury in 1956 as the secretary to the purchasing agent and to the assistant business manager. She later became the assistant to the director of athletics, where she worked for more than 20 years managing team travel assignments, securing officials for home events, assisting staff with athletic policies and procedures, and handling department finances. Predeceased by husband Robert, she is survived by children Scott, Rick, Timothy, Tamara, and Michelle, 11 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.


UP A TREE
© 2024 MARK ALAN STAMATY
TEE OFF TODAY AT THE THIRTEENTH HOLE OF MIDDLEBURY GOLF COURSE.
YOU WON'T HEAR THE MUSIC...
...THE LAUGHTER, THE RAPT CONVERSATION, THE JUBILATION.
LOOK UP AND ALL YOU'LL SEE IS SKY.
BUT SOME "HAVE NOT FORGOT THAT ONCE THERE WAS A SPOT"...
...CONCEIVED AND MANIFESTED FROM IDLE CHATTER OF TWO RESTLESS FRESHMEN—DAN FLANAGAN('74) AND JOHN ABBOTT('74)—BY THE ROARING BLAZE OF THE STEWART HALL FIREPLACE IN THE DEAD OF WINTER 1971.
LET'S BUILD A TREE HOUSE!
I'M IN! LET'S DO IT!
EXCITEDLY, THEY ENLISTED DEBBIE HUTCHINSON('74) AND EILEEN ROCKEFELLER('74) TO JOIN THEM IN SEARCHING THE SNOWY GROUNDS, TILL THEY SPOTTED THE PERFECT TREE—A MAJESTIC ELM—AND BROKE INTO CELEBRATORY DANCE.
SOON AFTER, DAN AND JOHN MET WITH FRESHMEN DAVID STONE, CRAIG SEVERANCE, AND TUCKER SWAN IN THE CREST ROOM WHERE THE "TREE HOUSE FIVE" SET TO WORK DESIGNING A MULTISTORY STRUCTURE.
NEXT, THEY SOUGHT PERMISSION FROM DEAN OF STUDENTS ERICA WONNACOTT, WHO, WEARY OF STUDENT PROTESTS, FOUND THEIR IDEA REFRESHING.
BY ALL MEANS, GO AHEAD!
IN LATE WINTER, CONSTRUCTION BEGAN AND MORE STUDENTS JOINED IN, TRANSPORTING LUMBER, HAMMERING, SAWING, ETC.
BUT MELTING SNOW OF EARLY SPRING REVEALED PROXIMITY TO THE GOLF COURSE.
HEY! STOP THAT RACKET!
NEGOTIATIONS AND OCCASIONAL BOTTLES OF JACK DANIELS LEFT BY THE TEE FOR GOLFERS WERE ABLE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE.
THEN, OVER TIME, THE ADMINISTRATION HAD SECOND THOUGHTS.
IS IT DANGEROUS?
DOES IT NEED TO BE INSURED?
SHOULD WE SHUT IT DOWN?
WHEREUPON, DAN SUGGESTED:
LET'S INVITE THE DEANS TO THE TREE HOUSE FOR TEA!
IN SPRING OF '72, THE GUESTS, WITH SOME ASSISTANCE, ASCENDED TO THE TREE HOUSE.
BY THEN, IT WAS NEARLY COMPLETED; TWO FLOORS, FOUR ROOMS, A WOOD STOVE, A WRAP-AROUND PORCH, AND A FENCED-IN DECK ON THE ROOF.
THE DEANS WERE AWESTRUCK.
THIS PLACE IS MAGICAL!
THUS COMMENCED THE BRIEF BUT GLORIOUS LIFE OF A MIDDLEBURY LEGEND.
IN ITS FEW FLEETING YEARS, THE TREE HOUSE WAS A HAVEN FOR GREAT PARTIES, DISCUSSIONS, AND QUIET REVERIE.
THEN, IN 1975, SOME UNTENDED CANDLES SET OFF A ROARING BLAZE THAT REDUCED IT TO ASHES.
CONCEIVED BY FIRE, CONSUMED BY FIRE.
A FITTING EPITAPH FOR AN INCANDESCENT LEGEND.

MiddMoment
IDEAS OF OUR DAY
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